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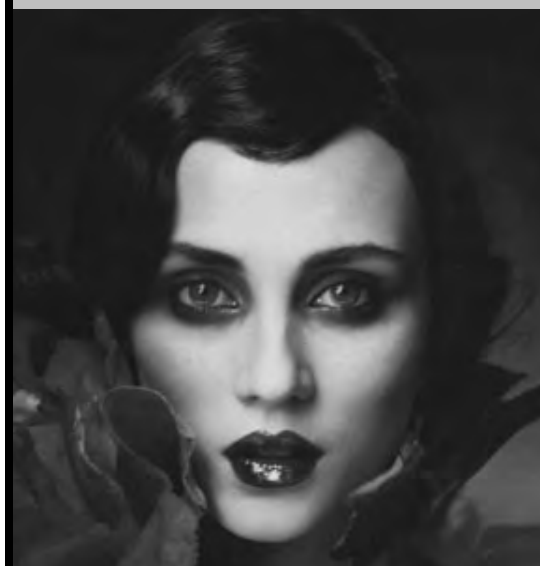
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PREVENTING TRAGEDIES

About eight hours before Ryan Salisbury was shot and killed by Eugene Police in a violent confrontation at his home early on Nov. 14, I was present when three Lane County sheriff's deputies — Levi Yandell, Bill Hollis and Sgt. Rene Stone — took into custody a 30-ish woman who was psychotic, dangerous to herself and needed to be hospitalized against her will. Though she was not armed with a weapon, she was angry, abusive, screaming and confrontational, delusional, fearful and paranoid and put much energy into trying to kick, strike and otherwise hurt the officers. These deputies showed great concern, skill, compassion and professionalism in how they restrained a woman who was bent on hurting them. She was taken into custody and transported to a hospital for treatment without being injured. But you don't read about incidents like this, which happen all the time, in newspapers.

I have worked in publicly funded community mental health programs for more than 25 years in all parts of Oregon. I have on numerous occasions personally witnessed police officers and sheriff's deputies in rural and suburban locales as diverse as Eugene and Klamath Falls go out of their way to take violent, out-of-control people into custody without injury. This experience for me has been the rule, the norm, not the exception.

Recent *EW* writers and opinion expressed in *Slant* suggest the police officers should behave like cowboys and shoot violent attackers with weapons in the legs. Ryan was between officers and family members trapped inside the house who were frightened and whose lives had been threatened by the armed Ryan. Suppose officers confronting Ryan Salisbury had shot him in the leg, but, despite being injured, he was able to retreat back to the house and harm hostages? The police would then be criticized for not being more aggressive. Or suppose, once shot in the leg and retreating back to the house where he would have been a dangerous threat, it became instantly clear that the only way to stop him, because the leg shot failed, would be to shoot him in the back? That would have gone over real well, don't you think?!

It's always appropriate to review deadly force policies and further train officers in dealing with mentally ill persons. But the bigger problem here is crumbling public mental health systems that, on their best days, verge on collapse for lack of resources. Ryan won't be the last mentally ill person killed by police, and the next one won't be the last. Incidents like this will continue to happen as long as people tolerate leaders whose priorities are tax cuts for the wealthy and more and bigger guns and bombs rather than support for vulnerable people.

Gary Cornelius
Eugene

REASON FOR THE SEASON

For all the great efforts made by all the great many people driving store to store before dawn and after dinner for four frenzied weeks every year in search of more ways to spend money to save money, something much more valuable has been lost.

For all the bluster and all the bellyaching over boycotting stores wishing their customers a happy holidays in place of a merry Christmas, as if stores and their corporate boards who pray only to the almighty dollar were the faltering standard bearers of the meaning of Christmas, something much more important has been overlooked.

For all the tax cuts for the rich and all the budget cuts for the poor delivered by Santa Congress just in time for Christmas recess and just in time for our born-again representatives to fly home aboard corporate sleighs to make it to the church just in time to be seen and photographed singing praises to the Lord on the occasion of his humble birth for the Sunday papers, something deeply unjust is being ignored.

And for all the children orphaned by drugs into foster care and all the growing millions of working poor without health care; for all the hungry, the homeless, the helpless; for all the least, the last, and the lost, somebody has got to start speaking out.

Is there no one this season with a message more valuable than gifts, more important than greetings and more compassionate than we are?

Todd Huffman
Eugene

CABAL NOIR

I saw my first EmX articulated bus today at twilight pulling out of the Eugene LTD Station on a trial run. It made Eugene look like some kinda noir Gotham City, a fitting tribute (literally) to Carolyn Chambers and her cabal.

At enormous cost, these behemoths eke out a one-third time saving on their route. Half of this can be accounted for by the elimination of several stops. The construction boondoggle has been disrupting (slowing) traffic on Franklin Boulevard and in downtown Eugene for almost two years. The construction companies, sand and gravel companies and the banks all have made out like bandits.

Ms. Chambers is currently offering us tap-dancing Santas in a holiday show at the Hult for a hefty ticket price. The price we'll pay for her pet projects is also a steep one. This capital project sucked up funds that could otherwise have gone to expanding services.



How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



Both routes and frequency of service have been cut back several times since the EmX project started.

The vision of the future is embodied in the EmX project, the still undead West Eugene Parkway and other outscale conceptions of a Californicated south Willamette Valley, which a distinct majority of us do not want, but is little by little displacing our beautiful environment.

Paul Prensky
Eugene

FINAL FOUR WORDS

Kera Abraham took on an ambitious project with her serialized recounting of local eco-radical history. Reform and revolution are an all-encompassing and very human enterprise. Lives will be altered, hurt and lost. Social reaction and punishments will not be fair or just. Feelings will continue to run high for many years, as evidenced by the various letters to *EW*, weighing in on Abraham's pieces thus far.

Chris Calef ends his letter (11/22) with a call to action, having given a list of "life and death issues that must be confronted and resolved, by whatever means possible." It's those final four words that leave me wondering if anybody's learned anything yet from all this. Try as I might, I just can't fathom what's

so hard to get about Gandhi's observation that the means and the end are inextricable. Even the early computer geeks had it figured with GIGO: garbage in, garbage out.

As numerous social visionaries before and after Gandhi have demonstrated (which is why, by the way, those mass gatherings came to be called "demonstrations"), it is entirely possible — no one ever said easy — to shift things big time while remaining personally consistent with the values one is espousing for the larger picture. In other words, don't burn stuff if cleaner air is one of your con-

cerns. If you hate the devious and often-anonymous violence perpetrated by huge corporations, don't think you are making things better by resisting in a devious, anonymous and/or violent manner.

The more vituperative voices in the green anarchy movement have often ridiculed what they regard as "fatal naïveté" when it comes to the chosen means, timelines and social humility demonstrated by truly nonviolent activists. I wish I could say it once and for all: Nobody's naïve here. We all have the ability to perceive the monster. We all know how to read Chomsky or Derrick Jensen et. al., to take in various analyses and see the immensity and scariness of what life on Earth is up against. But some of us seem to prioritize evolution rather than repetition and reaction when it comes to designing strategies for change. Why not stand on the willing shoulders of those great nonviolent revolutionaries who sacrificed so much instead of ignorantly and pridefully reinventing the revolution wheel?

Vip Short
Eugene

THE NEXT STEP

I believe the Wayne Morse Courthouse has inspired many to look for the next step to create a beautiful entrance to our city. With the river's natural beauty preserved, we can have (architects) Poticha, Diethelm and Gillem design the access to the river with buildings that can make us all thrilled to live in a beautiful Eugene. I do hope the river will be the centerpiece and not hidden or infringed upon with overwhelming structures and roads.

When I look at the proposed changes for Franklin, I'm worried that the noise and traffic planned is not designed for the importance of the Willamette River. No one will be able to enjoy walking or sitting between the river and a busy highway. Please be careful.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

STILL NOT BURIED

At its most recent monthly meeting, the Oregon Transportation Commission re-

moved the West Eugene Parkway from its highway construction list. OTC Commissioner Randy Papé, one of the main WEP boosters, made the motion to kill the project, which was approved unanimously.

The WEP is not quite dead yet, but it is in hospice. I've put my legal files into boxes but not (yet) into the woodstove.

The money appropriated toward initial construction costs needs to be transferred to other projects, ideally fixing West 11th and Beltline (that intersection was approved in a 1995 environmental assessment).

When Bertelsen Slough, an important but polluted tributary of Amazon Creek, is transferred to the Bureau of Land Management's West Eugene Wetlands project, then and only then will the WEP be 100 percent dead.

It is a shame that the June 2001 promise for "no build" made by ODOT, Federal Highway Administration, BLM, Lane County and the City of Eugene was not implemented — better late than never, but we would have saved millions wasted on more "studies" and kept unnecessary divisiveness from splitting the community.

Thanks to everyone who stayed resolute and refused to compromise away the wetlands over many, many years despite considerable pressure to capitulate. There are many dedicated citizens who worked hard to prevent the so-called Parkway, but if Barbara Kelley had not filed suit against the project (in 1996), it would have been built.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

DIRTY SECRET

Regarding Victoria's Secret's recent pledge to start using a whopping 10 percent of PCW paper for their catalogs: While Forest Ethics might consider this a victory, the Cascadia Forest Defenders and UO's Forest Action don't consider 10 percent recycled content in hundreds of millions of wasteful catalogs to be anywhere near enough.

These catalogs are not to enlighten the masses with words of wisdom but to sell a product so they can profit. Is that worth the death of our Earth's life support systems?

Additionally, Victoria's Secret's "commitment to phase out of endangered forests" needs to be a reality now, not in another five years. The boreal forest is going fast, currently being logged at about two acres a minute. Half of that is for paper.

Of course, Victoria's Secret isn't the only one to blame. There are Eddie Bauer, J. Crew, L.L. Bean, REI, Harry & David and Urban

Outfitters, just to name a few. According to Conservatree and the U.S. Forest Service, "more than 100 million trees worth of bulk mail arrive in American mailboxes each year — the equivalent of deforesting all of Rocky Mountain National Park every four months."

Cascadia Forest Defenders & Forest Action aren't giving up on this campaign. We are starting a drop box collection in Eugene where people can donate their Victoria's Secret catalogs, and we will deliver them back to Victoria's Secret all at once. People can contact forestdefenders@riseup.net to donate a catalog in exchange for a free gift.

Julie Anderson
Eugene

FEAR THEM!

The sky is falling!

In 29 days recently, 29 criminal acts, including theft (11), assault and harassment (3), driving violations (10), resisting arrest (1) and criminal mischief (2), were reasons for prosecution, with 28 criminals fined \$21,784 with 64 days, mostly in county jail.

But our county jail is full. Up to 35 prisoners are released daily without trial and simply on their promise to return for their trial. Many of them don't. They're commonly picked up in Florence after committing more crimes.

Fines? Are you kidding? Most these criminals are unemployed and have no money. Recently, one homeless individual answered my question about his fines with, "You can't get money out of a turnip."

Yet Lane County's law-abiding citizens refuse to protect themselves by voting for more taxes. Little do they realize criminals are coming closer to their windows and doors, and soon many more will be in their pockets, their homes and their houses.

Jerry Copeland
Florence

WHINERS, SHUT UP

Almost every week in *EW*, I see at least two or three letters to the editor regarding how bad the police are in Eugene. The criticism that really bothers me is people questioning EPD's use of deadly force in the situation with the mentally ill kid with the knife. I read things like "The cops felt justified because the kid was mentally ill" and "The police shouldn't shoot to kill." That's all crap, and every one of these whining hippies knows it.

I don't care if you are a cop or just a regular citizen, when you feel that your life is in immediate danger, the law, as well as the survival instinct that everyone has, says that you have



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the right to protect yourself using deadly force. Every time a cop is involved in any kind of shooting, he/she is immediately under suspicion and criticism, no matter the circumstance, from everyone in the city. But when a cop gets killed in the line of duty, everyone is all tears, flags and 21-gun salutes.

It seems to me that today cops are treated like shit by most citizens every day of the year except the day some asshole kills a cop or there is some psycho on the loose. Why do we have to wait until something terrible happens to have any respect for the people who keep us safe? They are out there to help us, and I think they deserve our support or at least the benefit of the doubt.

Chris Ingram
Eugene

STEP OFF

I appreciate the fact that the Wayne Lyman Morse U.S. Courthouse (cover story, 11/30) is named after Oregon's most illustrious hero, but the gross, moronic, silly-looking and dysfunctional steps are an abomination. It would have been more economic, more aesthetic and more accessible to all if the prime entrance were at street level with a totally accessible-to-wheelchair entrance beside the regular entrance.

It seems that every federal project built during the Bushwhacked era has at least one major flaw attributable to the corrupted thinking of the brainwashed few.

And Mark Roberts (letters, 11/30) is basically correct that sports, the military, entertainment and politics are geared to glorify competition/violence. The trick of reversing the violence of war, domestic abuse, etc. needs to incorporate nonviolence as a revolutionary means of creating peace and reducing crime/war. If successful, this revolution will cure the environment, biosphere, the over-stuffed U.S. prison population and the war criminals.

Bob Saxton
Eugene

BRAVE PROTESTERS

Thank you; your recent pieces involving Warner Creek have allowed me to reminisce about the brave people who were fighting the good fight to preserve our ancient forests. I took them food and blankets and received in return a wonderfully informative tour of the regenerating forest they were suffering in the cold and rain to protect. I'm certain I never once, in all the time I was aware of the project or at any time I was around James Johnston, which was fairly frequently, EVER hear anyone refer to the encampment as "Monty Python" anything!

That's the part a naïve reporter (she was maybe 15 in 1995?) couldn't possibly "get" about Warner Creek or the highly intelligent

but sometimes inscrutable James. If he said it at all, it was most certainly tongue in cheek. Additionally, there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever the arson at the ranger station was perpetuated by forces OTHER than environmentalists; none I know are so stupid they would destroy Tim Ingallsbee's positive research.

Sarah Alexander Nunn
Eugene

TERRORIZING THE PLANET

Who are the real eco-terrorists? Someone who burns an SUV or someone responsible for deforesting millions of acres of beautiful trees, wiping out the habitat of deer, elk, owls and mushrooms, forcing cougars out of their homes down onto the human populations and then terrifying communities of people by helicopter and poisoning the land, water and air all around these communities?

All one has to do is take a drive in any direction into the once beautiful forest lands and look at the massive devastation created by these greedy timber barons in their lust for the "almighty" buck. They care little for whom or what they hurt or terrify. This is obvious by their actions and responses to the cries of the people and animals who are affected by their devastation. It is not only the people around their operations whose water is being poisoned, but the whole watershed for you city dwellers is also toxic.

You don't have to be extremely intelligent to figure out where all their toxic chemicals eventually end up. Research has shown the chemical effects of these poisons on human and animal life, and we immediately see the devastation of our ecosystem. So I ask you once again: Who are the real eco-terrorists?

Fred Mentzer
Deadwood

JUST SAY NO, PETE

In October the British medical journal *The Lancet* reported on a study of deaths in Iraqi households, based on standard polling techniques, by the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. The study estimated 655,000 Iraqi deaths caused by the war, with 31 percent of the dead killed by our troops.

That means we've directly killed about 203,000 Iraqis and indirectly killed the rest because they wouldn't have died if we hadn't invaded and triggered the war. The presence of our troops is still a constant provocation helping to keep the war going.

In a Nov. 16 interview on *The Huffington Post* website, Rep. Dennis Kucinich said that the only power Congress has to get us out of Iraq is to cut off the funding by voting against supplemental appropriations bills. Democrats such as Rep. Peter DeFazio have

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claimed they have to vote for the appropriations bills to "support the troops." Kucinich said, "If we truly care about our troops, we'll get them out. It's the phoniest argument to say that a cut-off of funds will leave troops stranded in the field. There's always money in the pipeline to pay for an orderly withdrawal."

Another huge war supplemental appropriations bill will be along soon. It is time to tell DeFazio to just say no.

Lynn Porter
Eugene

SEASON OF PEACE

I am so concerned about the state of this country that I feel compelled to ask all peoples for peace. In this holy time when the light returns and when those sons and daughters of God can shine their brightest, I ask all peoples for peace. Is it truly difficult to find something in common with your neighbor? Is it easier to find what you do not share? What beliefs you do not share? What values you do not share?

I ask for peace from all peoples. Look to your neighbor this season. How can you serve him or her during this holy time? This is

all people's place: to serve others. Can you look to your neighbor for inspiration this season? What do they do right? What do you like about them? What beliefs and values do you share?

I can share a few of my own that I'm sure most people would agree upon. I want my child to be happy and safe. I want to be comfortable. I want my family to be safe. I want to be happy. Do we not all share these core values?

I want light to shine upon us all this winter. Give presents to those who truly deserve them. Give presents to yourself. For God's sake, please, give presents to your neighbors. Wish them all the happiness they can hold. Hold this also for yourself.

I ask for peace from all peoples.

Toni Gabriella Rilla
Violence Prevention Inc.
Eugene

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KUMBAYA DAMMIT BY DAN CAROL

Escrow Exit Strategy

A commitment that actually benefits Iraq

Like many of us, I have been struggling with the tragic fact that if we leave Iraq, we leave a horrible mess behind, but if we stay, the mess will probably get worse due to the problems caused by America's military presence.

Now the Iraq Study Group is saying last week we should embed more troops, try more diplomacy and then hope for the best.

Speaker Pelosi has indicated that Democrats are willing to work with President Bush to end the war.

Sounds like a long dance to me.

So how about this approach to speed things up and get our troops home faster:

1) We call on Peter DeFazio and John Murtha to propose what we might call the "Escrow Exit Strategy" from their key posts on the House Appropriations committee – the committee that controls the flow of funds.

2) We remind ourselves and all Americans that we "own" the problem, because we do. Colin ("You Break It, You Own It") Powell was right about that one.

3) We ask Pentagon bean-counters to figure out what it would cost to stay there if we stayed there as long as big kids like the Iraq Study Group want us to – let's say for the sake of argument that it's another two years, \$150 billion of taxpayer dollars, plus American lives.

4) We then leave as soon as possible and escrow the money we'd save for the benefit of the Iraqi people and the reconstruction of that country – because it is the fundamentally right thing to do.

5) I think ALL compassionate progressives and conservatives should oppose our country simply pulling out without making some sort of HARD commitment to clean up the mess we've made. Multi-nation talks are nice; redistribution of Iraqi oil revenues are merely theoretical; but a hard commitment to rebuilding is the real deal. Do we have the will to stay the course on that?

6) Suggest we call in some intelligent mix of our allies, the UN, Middle East neighbors and some internationally wise set of people to work with the U.S. government to set conditions that would govern the release of that money so long as various markers of progress are achieved. Perhaps the Iraq Study Group folks can help set these benchmarks.

We just can't leave, but we can't keep throwing money down a rat-hole either. So let's commit to paying for the mess we started but escrow the funds so that the money is there as an incentive for progress, peace and prosperity.

Dan Carol is a Eugene-based political consultant. His regular postings can be found at





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Odetta
Thursday, January 11
The Shedd Institute

• The **new courthouse** needs a name. We know, officially it's called the "Wayne Lyman Morse U.S. Courthouse." We're talking a nickname. Lots of the best buildings have them. The architects have their high-minded descriptions of their genius laced with how it symbolizes this, that and the other thing. The public takes a look and slaps on a name that sticks. In California the architect Cesar Pelli designed the Pacific Design Center that his colleagues lauded as a huge barrel-vaulted extrusion of form and color. The public affectionately called it "The Blue Whale." In Eugene, L.A. architect Thom Mayne designed a glassy, silvery and white thing. An artist who installed a metallic apple peel sculpture outside described it as "The Ice Palace." That could stick. Other possibilities include "The Tin Cannery," "The Thombel," "The Hubcap," "Hogan's Hogan" Send us an email (editor@eugeneweekly.com) with your sticky nickname suggestions.



• Why is it that Springfield City Councilor and LRAPA Board Chair **Dave Ralston** gets away with such rudeness – bashing Latino immigrants, regularly berating Betty Taylor, and twice calling for the disbanding of LRAPA after the board takes a stand he doesn't like – while others tiptoe around him? The man acts like a right-wing radical with xenophobic tendencies, and he stands up for polluting industries over people's health. We hear rumors that Ralston might challenge **Sid Leiken** for Springfield mayor next election. The move could potentially turn out rosy if Ralston gives up his council seat to run for mayor, gets trounced, and is relegated to the fringes. Meanwhile, fellow LRAPA board member **Faye Stewart**, who usually votes with Ralston, reminds us that elected officials can be conservative without being abrasive. Stewart voices his views politely and listens to alternate perspectives rather than throwing hissy fits every time the board majority votes against him. As for Ralston's call to disband our 38-year-old local air protection agency for being "anti-business"? Inappropriate as well as delusional. LRAPA cozies up to business far more than we are comfortable with, and Ralston shouldn't be board chair if he doesn't support the agency's existence.

• **Register-Guard** reporters and editors were out braving the weather on Ferry Street Bridge Monday morning protesting declining newspaper readership and revenues here and across the country. We share their concerns, despite *EW's* trend-busting growth. Americans are becoming less informed as they turn to TV comedy shows, websites and talk radio for their news. The big dailies still manage to maintain profit margins by cutting back on editorial staff, investigative reporting and page counts. Is that practice sustainable, or does it just drive away even more readers? Some media pundits are predicting half the daily papers in the country will shut down their print editions within 10 years, and some will fold altogether. Maybe, maybe not. What we do know is that well-researched, well-written and relevant local news will always be in demand, but it might not always arrive as a fat package on our doorstep each morning.

• We're not inclined to give Sen. **Gordon Smith** pats on the back for finally turning against the Bush administration's Iraq War last week. Smith has been dead wrong on the war from the beginning and would probably still be dead wrong on the war if he didn't see his reelection seriously threatened in 2008 by the likes of Democratic Rep. **Earl Blumenauer**. What we'd like to see from Smith is an apology to Oregonians and all Americans for his role in this atrocity. He can also do damage control by supporting legislation to get us out of Iraq quickly, end war profiteering and restore our dismantled constitutional and civil rights. Otherwise, his recanting is just opportunistic bandwagoning. Meanwhile, we're happy to see Sen. **Ben Westlund** making a graceful transition from Republican to independent to Democrat. Will others follow?



Cousin Borat

• Smallworldiness: Eugene jeweler **Hannah Goldrich** is the second-cousin once removed of Sacha Baron Cohen, the Brit better known as "Ali G" and "Borat." Along with most, but not all of us, she laughed at his movie. And **Eugene City Bakery** proudly buys the organic flour made from organic wheat grown by the new Democratic senator from Montana usually identified as "flat-top" Jon Tester.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

CHEMICAL QUANDARY

The Hynix semiconductor plant in west Eugene has applied to nearly triple its emission of hydrogen fluoride (HF), a toxic air pollutant and acid rain contributor, in an effort to reduce its greenhouse gas output. Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) seems poised to approve the increase, but does not appear to be exploring a potential link between HF gas and lung disease.

Three long-time neighbors on Louis Lane, about two miles from the Hynix facility, developed pulmonary fibrosis and passed away in quick succession between April 2005 and February 2006 (see "Pulmonary Paradox," *EW* 5/4). The cause of their illness is uncertain, but pulmonary fibrosis experts acknowledged that three cases occurring on the same street is unusual and merits investigation. Asked whether pollution from the nearby semiconductor plant may be a source of the men's symptoms, none of the experts saw a red flag.

Hynix's request to hike its HF emissions prompted *EW* to revisit the mystery. And it does appear that the chemical has been linked, although vaguely, to the little-understood disease. A letter from Abbott Laboratories in the spring 1997 Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation newsletter listed pulmonary fibrosis as a possible symptom of short-term exposure to a high concentration of HF. It is unclear whether a chronic, low-concentration exposure — which

neighbors of the Hynix plant are likely to breathe — is likewise linked to pulmonary fibrosis. Federal worker safety regulation agency OSHA describes HF gas as a "severe pulmonary irritant" that can cause edema, or fluid buildup in the spaces between lung tissues.

LRAPA permit writer Doug Erwin said that Hynix's current output of 1.8 tons of HF per year exposes people 1 mile away to about 1.5 micrograms of HF per cubic meter per hour. If Hynix increases its emissions to 5 tons per year, residents 1 mile away will inhale up to 4.1 micrograms per cubic meter per hour. According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, it's safe for people to inhale up to 14 micrograms of HF per cubic meter per hour on a chronic basis. Thus, Erwin said, Hynix can increase its HF emissions to 5 tons per year without harming the health of nearby residents.

But not everyone is so confident. In a Dec. 11 letter to LRAPA, Oregon Toxics Alliance requested a public hearing before the permit is approved. Erwin confirmed that the hearing will soon be scheduled, as required under LRAPA rules.

According to Hynix spokesman Bobby Lee, the company is only trying to be a good corporate citizen. Hynix has joined an international effort among semiconductor manufacturers, in partnership with the U.S. EPA, to reduce emissions of perfluorocompounds (PFCs), a powerful greenhouse gas. The modified manufacturing process produces more HF, which Lee claims is not a contributor to global warming. "Of course the public should question it, and that's why you have the process through LRAPA," he added. "Our intention, of course, is to reduce [PFC emissions] along with all of the semiconductor industry."

Hynix is located in an area that already exceeds national ambient air quality standards for PM10, or coarse particulate matter, which is linked to respiratory problems such as asthma. — Kera Abraham



PROGRESSIVE VOTE KILLED COUNTY TAX

Eugene's progressive vote killed the county cops and jails tax Measure 20-114 last month, according to an analysis of precinct voting results.

While Eugene progressives voted heavily in favor of increasing their taxes to support parks, they voted heavily against the county law enforcement tax measure. The parks measure 20-110 passed in Eugene with 59 percent voting yes. The county tax measure — criticized as favoring jails over treatment and for giving tax breaks to corporations — got only a 49 percent yes vote in Eugene, the same percentage by which it

failed countywide.

If the county tax measure had received the same pro-tax vote in Eugene as the city parks measure had, the county measure would have passed with a countywide total of 53 percent voting yes.

In half of Eugene's precincts, mostly in south Eugene, the discrepancy was big: The parks yes vote was more than 10 percentage points higher than the jails no vote. In one Whiteaker neighborhood just north of West 11th, 83 percent voted for parks, but only 38 percent voted for the county jails measure.

Money measures have traditionally relied on strong support from pro-government progressives in south Eugene to push them over the top. But funding measures for law enforcement have struggled in the face of south Eugene voters' skepticism of their po-

lice emphasis. Eugene has passed two parks bond measures and a library measure in the same time that three police station measures have failed.

The voting pattern could point to a new strategy for the county passing its tax measure by changing it to put more money into prevention and treatment rather than incarceration and by shifting more of the burden to corporations and the wealthy. But while such a strategy might play well with south Eugene progressives, it might not be popular with the current conservative majority on the Lane County Commission. However, in January a new west county commissioner, Bill Fleenor, is expected to shift the balance to the left. — Alan Pittman



remained untouched.

Whether the thieves were protesting "Peace" itself or the rainbow colors that could symbolize gay pride, they "violated our neighborhood," Schauerma says, "our freedom of speech and our right to be different."

Members of Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) printed up cautionary flyers for McKinley Street residents about the incident. CALC's Michael Carrigan says the thefts constitute a hate crime because they targeted people's beliefs.

At press time, EPD has no new leads. EPD Public Information Director Melinda Kletzok says the crimes are considered misdemeanors based on the stolen items' low economic value.

But Schauerma rejects EPD's perception of value. "[The flag] stands for what we believe," she says. "You can't put a price on feeling safe and comfortable in your home."

Schauerma has since funded the flags' redistribution, as she did originally. While peace flags show their colors once again on McKinley Street, many are now displayed from inside. — Nicole Fancher

SHREDDED SPEECH

Jeanie Schauerma regularly brings her large, rainbow-striped "Peace" flag to local rallies. So one day, when it wasn't on her porch, no alarms went off — until Schauerma noticed that her McKinley Street neighbors' flags were also missing.

Residents soon learned that sometime between Nov. 28 and Nov. 30, thieves had stolen four peace flags and left one torn at the base of its pole. Neighbors first thought the culprits were kids playing a joke, but to Abby Sliwinski, who owned the ripped flag, the thefts felt too "mean-spirited" to be done by kids.

McKinley Street runs parallel to City View Street and curves north from 18th Avenue to 14th Avenue, a quiet four blocks with no cross streets. Resident Jennifer Rowan says the stolen flags came from the street's north end. Five or six flags from the south end and several political yards signs

FINDING ROOM AT THE INN

In Mexico at this time of year, many people are preparing to celebrate La Posada Navideña, also known as Las Posadas. Just

Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

JONATHAN LIVINGSTON

In 2001, on his way to a bachelor's degree in sociology at the UO, Jonathan Livingston started as a volunteer with HIV Alliance, in the gay-bi outreach program.

"We would go to places where gay men gather," he says. "I'd give a talk about safer sex practices." As a high-school student in Tualatin, Livingston had come out at age 15. "I stopped being harassed," he notes. At 17 he started a gay-straight alliance at the school. After six months as a volunteer with HIV Alliance, Livingston was hired as a staff outreach worker. "I also did HIV counseling and testing," he says. "The work was more satisfying than school." Still, he did graduate, and since 2002, Livingston has served the alliance as a case manager for people living with AIDS. "I like the idea of an ongoing conversation, getting to know people better," he says. "Our mission is to help people stabilize and maintain their health." Three full-time case managers attend to 190 clients for the alliance. "Jonathan is so caring and generous," says co-worker Erin Ehly. "For some clients he's the only person they've got. I don't know if he knows that."



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news Briefs

in case you're not up on your Spanish, *una posada* is an inn or a hostel, and just in case you're not up on your Baby Jesus, here's the scoop: The (very) pregnant Mary and stepdad Joseph, looking for a safe place between Nazareth and Bethlehem for Mary to give birth, kept on finding *posadas llenas*. That is, there was no room at the inns.

Las Posadas is a reenactment of this search for shelter, when members of the community gather to celebrate the season. Middle-grade students may recognize the event from Pam Muñoz Ryan's award-winning 2004 book *Becoming Naomi León* or from their own parents' descriptions, and those who attend church services have probably at some point heard a sermon connecting Mary's journey to immigration. And it's not lost on the Latino immigrant community that finding shelter in a sometimes hostile country can be a perilous and dramatic experience.

So Amigos Multicultural Services Center and its youth group, Juventud FACETA, planned the reenactment not only as a seasonal celebration but to pay tribute to International Migrants Day, established by the U.N. General Assembly in the year 2000. "In celebrating International Migrants Day," says FACETA's press release, "we offer our support for the protection of the human rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers around the world, including those residing in our own local community."

FACETA advisor Patricia Cortez notes that it's important for the youth to keep traditions going so they stay connected to their cultural heritage. Las Posadas begins at 6 pm Wednesday, Dec. 20 at the old Whiteaker School, 21 N. Grand St., and Amigos invites the entire community, especially children, to the celebration that will include the reenactment, Christmas songs and a party. — Suzi Steffen

A WORLD THAT WORKS?

Sharif Abdullah, founder and president of the Commonway Institute and author of *Creating A World That Works for All*, will be speaking at 7 pm Thursday, Dec. 14 at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. Organizers of the talk say they hope to pull together groups in Eugene based on Abdullah's ideas.



Sharif Abdullah

Abdullah was raised in the violent slums of Camden, N.J. He was a Black Panther and founder of the Black People's Unity Movement, an organization dedicated to self-help and development in Camden. He practiced law before turning full-time to work for social change.

"America is pulling itself apart at the seams," according to Abdullah on the Commonway website, www.commonway.org "The dividing lines that separate us — lines of class, caste, color and ideology — are getting wider, with no end in sight. We have lost our spiritual center. No one person or group can solve our problems: Only by learning and practicing inclusivity will we be able to pull together instead of pulling apart."

Abdullah says people are meeting the challenges of our times with "creativity, joy and a deep spiritual reverence. They are acting like their lives have meaning in the world. These turbulent times are calling forth authentic leaders who are adept at surfing through chaos. These leaders are creating a world beyond war and beyond fear: a world that works for all."

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

"Flames of Dissent: Pt III" (11/22) incorrectly stated that a 1999 juvenile justice bill created a central "Animal Terrorism and Eco-Terrorism Clearinghouse." Although the bill passed in the House and Senate, it was never enacted as law.

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Butterfly Lot

Will county gouge Eugene for City Hall site?

Lazar's Bazaar isn't the only property downtown demanding big money for redevelopment land. Lane County wants the city of Eugene to pay up to eight times the estimated market value for its old butterfly-shaped parking garage on the park blocks.

The council voted 5-3 Dec. 11 for the butterfly garage and adjacent Rock N Rodeo site as its top pick for a new City Hall.

The city estimates the market value of the 228-space county butterfly garage at \$1.7 million. The county wants that price, plus a replacement garage that will cost the city \$8 to \$11 million for a total cost of \$10 to \$13 million, according to city staff. In addition, the county also wants the city to provide a nearby quarter-block site for a possible new county courthouse.

Councilor Bonny Bettman called the county's demands "astronomical." Questioning the demand for a replacement garage, she pointed out that when you buy a house you don't have to pay for the house and then also buy the seller a replacement house. "How is that justified?"

"I agree with you that it does represent double paying," said city facilities manager Mike Penwell. "That's just been characterized as part of the deal."

"It sounds to me like we're going to get the fuzzy end of the lollipop," said Councilor George Poling.

Bettman asked whether the county would accept the current City Hall building as a swap. The current building is a whole block compared to a half-block, and has about the same number of parking spaces underneath it and is connected to the county building by a convenient sky bridge. The county could also use the office space. For years, the county has been looking for better offices for its public health division, which now occupies a cramped, cinder-block building — one of the worst public buildings in the region. City staff value the current building at only \$2.8 million, assuming that it would be torn down.

Penwell said he asked county officials about a swap, but they didn't want the building above the parking.

Bettman questioned whether the city staff, who strongly favor tearing down the existing City Hall and rebuilding on the same site, are providing objective information on the costs of different sites. "I feel manipulated."

Mayor Kitty Piercy said she and other councilors need to negotiate directly with county elected officials about buying the butterfly lot. "We do need to sit at the table with commissioners."

Despite the momentous cost and importance of the City Hall placement decision, there appeared to be little council consensus on an issue that is likely to go to voters as a huge bond measure.

Initially, the council appeared split down the middle on the City Hall site, with half favoring the butterfly lot and half favoring the current site. But Piercy said she favored the butterfly site, raising the possibility of a tie-breaking vote. After that, Councilor

Andrea Ortiz changed her position to support the butterfly site, making the vote 5-3.

Supporters of the Rock N Rodeo-butterfly site (Councilors Ortiz, Bettman, David Kelly, Betty Taylor, Gary Papé and Mayor Piercy) argued that the site would be more exciting to the public and would help downtown by replacing an eyesore garage with a civic building, potential expanded Farmers' Market and addition to the park blocks.

"This is something that the community needs to be excited about," said Piercy. "We have the best chance of doing that with the Rock N-butterfly site."

Opponents (Councilors Jennifer Solomon, George Poling and Chris Pryor and City Manager Dennis Taylor and his staff) argued that the current City Hall site would cost 10 percent less and offer more

"It sounds to me like we're going to get the fuzzy end of the lollipop."

— COUNCILOR GEORGE POLING

flexibility with its larger size.


"You're trading a full block for a half block and paying \$10 million more for it," said Pryor. "That is not a good deal."

But others pointed out the Rock N-butterfly site is three-quarters of a block with potential for underground parking under park space on the remaining quarter block. Councilor Papé said the cost difference could also be erased if a full accounting of the "organizational turmoil" of moving twice and renting dispersed space for two years to build on the current site is considered.

Bettman also questioned whether returning to old plans to build on the current City Hall site would breed voter cynicism. She said voters will ask, "Boy, you had to spend \$2 million on a consultant to build a new City Hall on the same spot and a new police station across the street. Isn't that what you started out with?"

Later in the meeting, departing Councilor Kelly cautioned that the city should reconsider spending the planned second million of the \$2 million on consultants next year before gauging whether voters support paying for the estimated \$130 million project.

"The whole bottom line is, what are the taxpayers willing to pay for?" Councilor Ortiz said.




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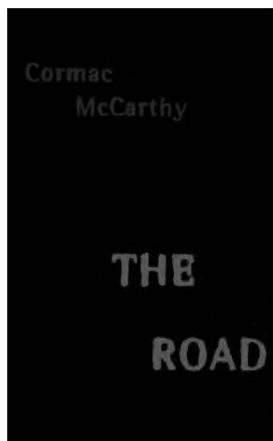
WINTER READING

FICTION

The Time of No Time

The Road by Cormac McCarthy. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$24. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

The Road, Cormac McCarthy's new novel, is both a departure and a coming home. Strictly speaking, *The Road* is a novella, its slim frame inflated by frequent section breaks (a McCarthy first), as if the book itself is pausing for breath. Absent are the author's trademark paragraph-length sentences. Absent are masterful descriptions of men at work — on horseback, by riverboat, always moving — that only Melville can equal. But also missing is the coldness of the McCarthy narrator, who can sound like he's dictating from miles above. What we find in *The Road* is a totally unexpected tenderness, an emotional current that brightens this horrifying vision of post-apocalyptic America.



The Road takes place several years after a global catastrophe. The nature of the event is only hinted at, but several allusions indicate it was nuclear. In the aftermath, almost everything burned. Ash blots out the sun. Animals are just a memory. Shoes are almost as important as food. Everything not burned is grey or opaque. Through this devastation walk a man and his young son. They are walking south to the sea, as much for something to hope for as for the promise of warmer weather. Along the way they are beset by freezing weather and starless nights, not to mention death squads, the cannibalistic road agents who patrol the highways.

What elevates this tale of survival to an instant classic is the subtle evolution of the father's relationship to his son. Initially, the father's perseverance seems steadfast and morally sound. (Many, including the boy's mother, committed suicide.) But the pressure of caring for and protecting the boy warps the father's ability to see goodness in others. To the father, everyone is an enemy. To the boy, who radiates kindness and compassion, people are defined in this dying world by their treatment of others, making the boy a living rebuke of his father. Increasingly desperate, the father makes a series of terrible decisions. What we witness is a slow transfer of moral authority in one of the harshest environments ever evoked in literature. Leave it to McCarthy to explore love in what is essentially hell on earth.

The novel bears more than a passing resemblance to Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, to which *The Road* might be called a darker cousin. Both books, arriving late in the authors' careers, are relatively brief but flawlessly executed. Both achieve the allegorical quality of a fable by using mythic structures to breathtaking effect. Although short, both books are fuller expressions of the author's genius than the longer, more elaborate works that preceded them. I don't think it's a stretch to say that like *The Old Man and the Sea*, *The Road* will be judged a separate and intact masterpiece, while at the same time a perfect extension of an enduring literary legacy. — Jason Blair

The Truth Will Out

Brookland by Emily Barton. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Hardcover, \$25. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

Emily Barton's *Brookland*, a long, gloriously intelligent novel, illuminates the early days of this country's life. At the heart of the novel lies the story of Prudence Winship, whose aspirations and failings we hear as she writes letters to her daughter and whose story parallels the rise both of New York and the country. Prue opens the letters with her story of being a young girl in the days just before the Revolutionary War, desperately wanting to take up gin-making with her father Matthias. The Winships live in Brookland, across the East River from Manhattan. When Prue's mother Roxane becomes pregnant, Prue fears her sibling will steal attention. She silently curses the child and blames herself when baby Pearl is born without the ability to speak. Her mother's servant, Johanna, also blames Prue, who prefers to keep her guilt secret at all costs.

But Prue grows up close to Pearl, closer than she is to the younger Temperance, and she also grows up to take over the distillery from her father. So she is granted one of her wishes, but another desire drives her: She wants to span the East River with a bridge. A young woman in the early 19th century, even one who owns and runs a business, would not be allowed to build a bridge, obviously. Yet with the help of Pearl, Tem and Prue's husband Ben, the bridge must rise — and with it, long-buried emotions that lead to much loss. This rich, well-researched and finely wrought book with its mix of gorgeous language and multilayered plot contains far more than a short review can express, partially because plot details obscure its larger ambitions. The book grants more than a nod to *The Scarlet Letter* and also thoroughly unsettles the idea that the northern states were somehow innocent of slavery; Winship Daughters Gin, like everything else in New York, depends on the labor of slaves. One of the best books of the year, this daring and wide-ranging novel spares no character the complications, dangers and strife inherent to human lives. — Suzi Steffen

Stumbling Towards Adulthood

Black Swan Green by David Mitchell. Random House, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.95. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

After traversing the world with *Ghostwritten* and the Booker Prize finalist *Cloud Atlas* (and exploring Japan in the also-Booker-shortlisted *number9dream*), English novelist David Mitchell has headed home with *Black Swan Green*, which takes a 13-year-old English lad named Jason Taylor as its stammering, thoughtful, hyperobservant protagonist. The prose pyrotechnics that made *Cloud Atlas* such a stellar piece of work, crossing genres and decades, are here brought to bear on smaller concerns: girls, belonging, parental dramas, the difficulties of claiming all pieces of one's self in the face of mockery and derision.

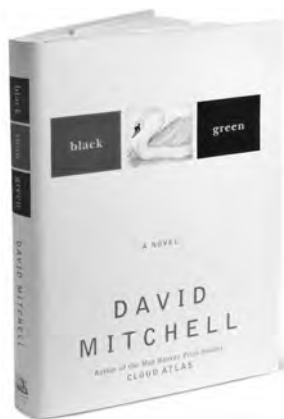


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX EBEN MEYER

Jason is a quiet, ordinary boy, if one who sends poems to the parish magazine under the name Eliot Bolivar (thus earning him the attention of one Madame Crommelynck, a name familiar to Mitchell readers). His story is broken into 13 chapters over the course of an early-1980s year, each chapter very nearly a self-contained tale of its own. Jason's narration is slangy, colloquial, occasionally (though enjoyably) confusing to those who didn't grow up in the English countryside (what exactly are rhubarb and custards?), but his use of language, the way he wrestles with words when his stammer limits his vocabulary, or observes the outdoors on a lazy day ("A vaportrail gashed the sky. But the sky healed itself. Without fuss.") switches instantly between lyrical and awkward, mirroring the divide between Jason's rather eloquent interior and his public difficulties. Jason's existence in Black Swan Green is vividly imagined, from the conversations of his parents to the antics of a local "gang" of slightly less well-behaved kids, and Mitchell paints a multi-faceted portrait. Partly, it's hard not to assume, it's a picture of the writer as a young man, but it's also a crisp, detailed adventure through a precisely depicted moment in time. The rich, recognizable life of Jason Taylor — and the lush writing of his creator — is a wonder. — Molly Templeton

Heartbreaking? Yes. Genius? Getting There.

What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng by Dave Eggers. McSweeney's, 2006. Hardcover, \$26.

Those accustomed to Dave Eggers' particular brand of cute post-modernism are in for a surprise. Absent are the tricks of his trade: the blank pages, the extended annotations, the clever tropes. This time his typical gamut of literary devices would only serve as a distraction to the raw emotion, lurid violence and true urgency of his story.

What is the What is a semi-fictional biography of one of the 17,000 "Lost Boys" displaced from Southern Sudan. Through years of conversation and interviews, Eggers approximates the life story of Valentino Achak Deng. His account traces the 1,000-mile trek across the war-ravaged country, through 13 years in Kenyan and Ethiopian refugee camps and eventually to a less-than-ideal tenure in the U.S.

During interactions in his new hometown of Atlanta — including one where he lies bound and gagged on the floor of his apartment — Valentino imagines narrating his experiences to those he meets. He reasons, "You would not add to my suffering if you knew what I have seen."



As the book progresses and he describes that suffering — watching as his friends are murdered, eaten by lions or dying of starvation; seeing his village burned to the ground; living for over a decade with no knowledge of his family — it's difficult to disagree with him.

Still, this book is not merely a call for outrage and pity, or a reminder of the tragedy of the world. It is the story of Valentino, not just the unfortunate events of his life, but his thoughts, reflections, feelings, love, insecurities and frustrations. The real strength of Eggers' writing, his uncanny proficiency for first-person voice, allows *What is the What* to be at the same time a terrible picture of African genocide and an exploration of humanity in the midst of it. — *Tony Perez*

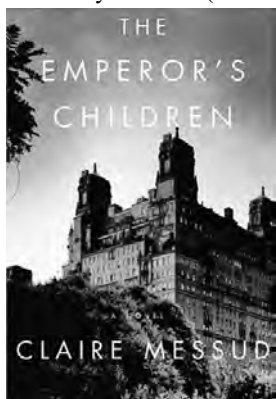
Castles on Sand

The Emperor's Children by Claire Messud. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$25. A *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST BOOK OF 2006. SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2006 MAN BOOKER PRIZE.

There can be something clichéd, even uninspired, about writers writing about writers, but in this tragicomic novel about three 30-year-old New Yorkers teetering on the tightrope between failure and success, Claire Messud makes it work.

The story takes place in New York City in the months before and just after September 11, 2001. The three main characters are all ambitious, aspiring media stars — Danielle Minkoff is a TV producer, Julius Clarke an out-of-work reviewer and Marina Thwaite a hopeful author, living at home while struggling to finish her book about how parents dress their children. Also central to the story are Marina's famous father, journalist Murray Thwaite (called "the country's liberal conscience"); smarmy Australian magazine founder Ludovic Seeley, who seeks to knock the elder Thwaite off his pedestal; and Murray's nephew "Bootie" Tubb, an awkward 19-year-old college dropout with a nascent sardonic intelligence. The six come together in an incendiary tangle that erodes the sand beneath their castles.

Messud's keen attention to superficial details — interior design, fashion, body types — is very New York, and at times strikes this Oregonian as rather shallow. But as Messud moves deeper into the narrative, she reveals this to be an intentional shallowness, a satire of the petty concerns that so often dominate the thoughts of professed Deep Thinkers. Danielle, for example, wants to make a TV documentary about reparations for Aborigines, but ends up planning a series on liposuction gone wrong. Marina hopes her book will show the world that she's a genius, but she siphons her best passages from the manipulative Ludovic. Murray deceives



both his fans and his family while preaching societal morals. And Bootie, chubby and smelly behind his glasses, seems to be the only character who sees this farce for what it is.

This is a masterfully woven story about privilege, loneliness and the panicked pursuit of success characteristic of 30-year-old urbanites who feel their potential fading. Messud's fourth novel raises questions faced by every X-Y generation American: What are our dreams? Whose ambitions do they spring from? And what are we willing to sacrifice in their pursuit? — *Kera Abraham*

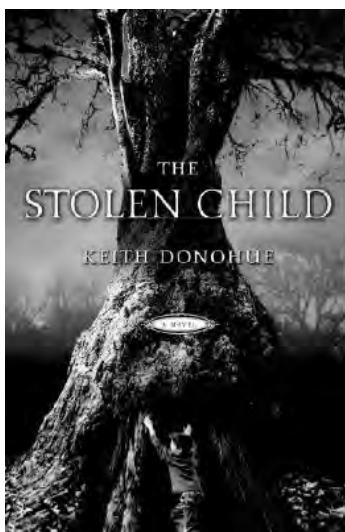
About Two Boys

The Stolen Child by Keith Donohue. Nan A. Talese, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.95.

"Don't call me a fairy," begins Keith Donohue's first novel. "We don't like to be called fairies anymore." At first, the voice sounds petulant, but as the young changeling who's about to become a boy named Henry Day continues, it becomes clear he's just telling things like they are — for the little bit of time they remain clear to him.

The Stolen Child is actually the tale of two stolen children: Aniday, the changeling who was Henry Day before the tribe of ageless children in the woods took him, and Henry Day, who takes the boy's place. It's a tricky thing, becoming a boy; it requires patience and dedicated observation. It's even trickier when, as happens to Henry, decades-old memories keep surfacing, shaking up the life he's slowly piecing together. In the woods, the changelings christen the new member of their band Aniday, and he too has to put together a self, one made up of hard-held memories and strange new experiences.

Donohue tell the stories of Henry Day and Aniday in alternating chapters of clear, clean prose that falters only in that the two boys' voices are a touch too similar. Shifting, subtle and gentle, Donohue's debut is a fairy tale for grownups, for all that its protagonists begin as children. ("I would not want to be a child again, for a child exists in uncertainty and danger," says Henry, summing up one theme of the story.) His exploration of identity, of who we are and who we might or could have been, is facilitated by the unfussy language, and by the sharp eyes of the growing boy who was a changeling and the changeling whose chance of being a boy again grows smaller and smaller. — *Molly Templeton*



What Next?

After This by Alice McDermott. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Hardcover, \$24. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

A circular novel that begins and ends in church — under circumstances that couldn't be more different — *After This* is the story of the Keane family from WWII until the 1970s. Not that Alice McDermott would mention a date or someone's age. Spare and deceptively simple, her novels use pinpoint descriptions of attitudes and fashions to evoke a particular milieu. Her work, while characterized by omission, relies on the subtle, shimmering details of everyday experience. McDermott is working with full confidence in *After This*, even if the results are somewhat mixed.

After This follows the slowly expanding Keane family, with Mary Keane nobly perched at the center. Mary is the type of mother who's pious but wants to be noticed for it. Her husband John is steady but stubborn and uninspiring. Their children are archetypes of sibling differences: Mike is the rebel, Jacob is obedient, Annie is liberated and Clare is cloistered. McDermott lays out a sort of Big Bang theory of families circa 1945: Sparked by mutual interest, two people agree to join forces, inevitably generating a series of children that grow up and eventually scatter. It's as much about avoiding loneliness as finding love. But McDermott's concern is the aftermath. What happens as the universe cools? What is left after separation?

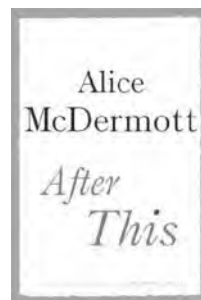
After This is told chronologically but discontinuously, similar to a scrapbook. Characters come forward, occupy the stage, then recede. Even in the hands of a substantial writer like McDermott, the action feels a little breezy for this scope: Instead of one summer, as in *Charming Billy*, *After This* spans several decades.

Quietly, even brilliantly observant, McDermott has been working toward a novel of this reach since her first book, 1982's *A Bigamist's Daughter*. *After This* is a worthy but imperfect addition to her work. Only McDermott could describe how windy days make it harder to breathe or how women sense "accomplishment" in tall men. Only McDermott could compare rustling leaves to the sound of pouring water. But while *After This* is lovely and poetic, at times I wanted a more connected narrative. Less sweep, if you will, and more story. — *Jason Blair*

Smoke, Ash, Fire and Fish

The Dead Fish Museum by Charles D'Ambrosio. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$22. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

Various fish are caught, cooked, clubbed, shot, accosted, talked to, refrigerated or pondered in all but one of the stories in *The Dead Fish Museum*, Charles D'Ambrosio's first



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collection of fiction since 1996’s *The Point*. In fact, the eight stories D’Ambrosio dishes up in *Dead Fish* are so thoroughly connected by their metonymies of smoke, ash, fire and fish that it is best to read them as a whole.

From “The High Divide,” about an orphaned boy coming to see himself in contrast to his best friend and his father on a camping trip, to the spoiled child-turned-fortysomething’s attempt at transcendent purgatory in “The Bone Game,” *Dead Fish* traces characters — typically introverted males with parents who either died young or went mad — who have a whole world in front of them, a world that doesn’t make sense or mean anything.

At times D’Ambrosio lays the existential anomie on a bit thick, crafting settings so drab they are either metaphorical (a beaten down, drafty house in “Blessing”) or rich with indifference (as in the Michigan backwoods setting for “Up North”) that to call *Dead Fish* mournful would be an understatement.

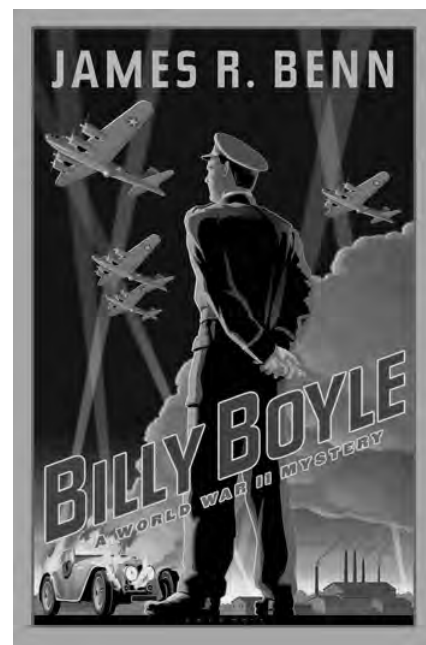
The final story, “The Bone Game,” sums up the philosophical shadings of the previous stories in one soul-draining night at the northwestern tip of Washington. Kype, like many of the characters in *Dead Fish*, may be just a hair away from a nervous breakdown, as someone who “was still hearing the story, a steady somewhat distant drone of words, like the sound of an alarm in another room that’s heard from inside a dream,” but knows he’ll go down fighting. Kype, like these stories, takes a wallop to the backside of the head and keeps on wallowing. — *Chuck Adams*

A Southie at War

Billy Boyle: A World War II Mystery
by James R. Benn. Soho Press, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.

The title sounds like a boys’ serial book, circa 1946 or even earlier, but this mystery is no book for youngsters. The twists, turns and ultimately the harsh truths of military strategy create a narrative that moves with full-bodied certainty on the well-worn terrain of WWII. The titular character doesn’t want to participate in the war; he’s a not-too-bright guy who would rather patrol the streets of Boston and work his way into being a good, solid detective, but it’s 1942, and even his I.R.A.-connected family can’t keep him at home when the government calls him to do his duty. So they do the next-best thing: They get him assigned to what they think will be a cushy job working for his Uncle Ike. Except his Uncle Ike, as you might imagine, is kind of in charge of the U.S. Army European Theatre of Operations, and Billy soon finds out that he’s in a pickle.

Part of the pickle comes from the Norwegians. Don’t know much about Norway and WWII? You will by the middle of this book, in which a seeming suicide and some missing gold go hand in hand with German sympathizers and murderous Allies. Not as introspective as one of Jacqueline Winspear’s Maisie Dobbs mysteries about WWI, not as convoluted as a John le Carré work of spycraft, *Billy Boyle* nevertheless manages to cover wide swaths of emotional terrain while serving up witty remarks and adventure the entire time. I look forward to Billy’s continued service with Uncle Ike. — *Suzi Steffen*



Through the Woods

Solstice Wood by Patricia A. McKillip. Ace Books, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.95.

Last year, prolific Oregon writer Patricia A. McKillip published *Od Magic*, a lovely fantasy about earth magic and the freedom to be — or become — who you are. This year, with *Solstice Wood*, a standalone companion to *Winter Rose*, she returns to the woods and streams of upstate New York and to a multi-generational story told in a handful of clear, thoughtful voices.

Sylvia Lynn, a thirtyish bookseller, is drawn back to her family home, Lynn Hall, when her grandfather dies. Her grandmother, Iris, has much to tell Syl, not least that the younger Lynn has inherited the family home and the strange responsibilities that come with it. As Syl reluctantly becomes aware of the true nature of her family, her own unusual heritage and the nature of the work of the town’s monthly sewing circle, the boundaries between her world and the world of the fey folk in the surrounding woods blur and twist. Changelings appear, children and adults get lost and secrets unravel as Syl pieces together her history and that of the Lynns.

McKillip is too skilled a writer to allow her work to be overburdened with morals and messages, but it’s hard not to see certain threads as timely. Under the cover of this gentle, enticing tale is a current of acceptance and understanding, of willingness to live side by side with the unknown. But it’s with a gentle hand that McKillip weaves together the notions of acceptance of the other and acceptance of the darker, more dangerous parts of the self. Though it’s not her strongest or most enchanting book, *Solstice Wood* is a satisfying story for a damp winter night. — *Molly Templeton*

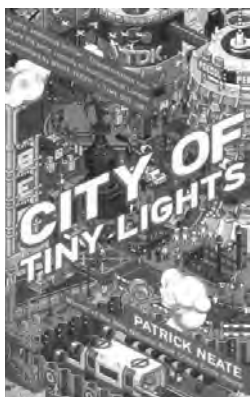


A Right Funny Dick

City of Tiny Lights by Patrick Neate. Riverhead, 2006. Paperback, \$14.

You may think you know London from reading Helen Fielding, Agatha Christie, Charles Dickens and Ian McEwan; or maybe Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* or Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* is more your style. In either case, you need to rush out immediately and pick up Patrick Neate's brilliant *City of Tiny Lights*, a moving, hilarious, fast-paced, intense half-thriller half-character-study of the city and its inhabitants. Tommy Akhtar, a bumbling, Indian-by-way-of-Uganda, middle-aged private eye with a stash of alcohol, cigarettes and regret, finds himself in the middle of several mysteries whose plots tie in all too clearly with recent events in Londinium.

The characters, from melanie.com to the young, disaffected-but-sweet boy recruited by Tommy and possibly those more nefarious, will have you laughing and gasping. Tommy's self-loathing combines with a healthy skepticism about everyone else; he's a weary, witty, worn-down and down-on-his-luck guy who always knows the smartest noirish thing to say. For instance, Tommy at a pub: "The décor was brown, the lighting murky; the gents' stank of warm beer and the saloon stank of warm piss: it was a typical coppers' hangout." Beneath all of the surface commentary runs a serious thread



about loss of civil liberties, racial profiling and racism in the UK. But don't let that stop you from snagging a copy for every Anglophile you know. The prescience of this novel, published in the UK in 2004, won't be lost on anyone who follows the news, and those who love the sprawling city on the Thames will appreciate another scene, filled with mordant humor and emotionally stunning moments, from the checkerboard panorama of this huge, ancient metropolis. — *Suzi Steffen*

Death, Be Not So Longwinded

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$16.95.

Who's telling the story in *The Book Thief*? It's not the thief, a girl named Liesel — or perhaps it is, for she is telling her story to someone (something) that ends all narration: Death. Though it's not new to read a book written by the personification of death, the length and scope of Markus Zusak's ambitious novel, its feints toward postmodernism and its intricate narrative combine to make this an important contribution to fiction about WWII and the Holocaust. Though intellectual, the climax has a Jonathan Safran Foer-type weight and emotional release.

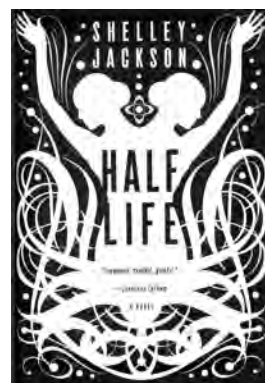
Liesel Meminger's story begins and ends with death, and that's no spoiler; the end of the book is foreshadowed from early on, as Death the narrator discusses why he is so drawn to the young girl. She's a German girl, a sort of orphan of a Communist father, living in a working-class town close to Munich, where bombing runs and food rationing have a massive impact. Time switches and telescopes often in the book; Death seems to be writing from some much later

time, even the early 21st century, but Liesel's tale contains freshness and immediacy. Those who have read Ursula Hegi's *Stones From the River* will recognize that any WWII novel about non-Jewish German civilians must, at some point, deal with questions of culpability: How does the protagonist deal with Nazi attitudes towards Jews? In books like *The Book Thief*, we know which characters to like because of their clear morality, a morality we assume that we share, thanks to the virtues of hindsight. But bad things happen to people Liesel loves, and bad things happen to people Liesel hates. That's one of Death's little lessons: Bombs don't care who's "good" and who's "bad." Still, someone must survive — lucky or damned — to tell the story. *The Book Thief*, an ambitious and bold attempt to address war's impact on civilians and deal with a massively shameful time of the 20th century, succeeds in informing and moving a receptive audience. — *Suzi Steffen*

Push Me Pull You

Half Life by Shelley Jackson. HarperCollins, 2006. Hardcover, \$24.95.

Shelley Jackson's *Half Life* takes place in a post-atomic age of hybrid children spawned from the darkness of an intoxicated nation. It stars Nora and Blanche, who share a body but not a head. They are Siamese twins, or, in the politically cor-



Beyond Hogwarts

You've read Lewis, Lackey, McCaffrey, Pierce and Jacques, graduated to Rowling and then to Tolkien and Pullman, and you're longing for more. More parallel worlds; more serious issues; more quests. How about parasitic vampires, magic that comes from running and can kill you or drive you crazy, an accomplished thief who falls for a very dangerous woman, uncontrollable demons and young ministers trying to stop Eastern European invasions of a vaguely Victorian London? Oh yeah, baby: It's the *EW* young adult fantasy roundup.

What are recent trends in YA fantasy? Arthurian legends, of course, keep on coming; Elizabeth Wein's series (*Winter Prince*, *Coalition of Lions*, *Sunbird*) moves in the world of imperial Ethiopia as well as Britain, and Kevin Crossley-Holland's *Arthur* series weaves legend with the Crusades for a unique blend. Speaking of the Crusades, Catherine Jinks' *Pagan* books and K. M. Grant's *de Granville Trilogy* mix religion, a bit of fantasy and heart-thumping historical adventure to create psychologically compelling characters. Also on the sort-of historical fantasy side is Megan Whalen Turner's ancient Greece-ish *King of Attolia*, the third in a trilogy that began with the wonderful *The Thief* and continued with *The Queen of Attolia*. That trilogy vies for intensity and complexity with Jonathan Stroud's Victorian London threesome: *The Amulet of Samarkand*, *The Golem's Eye* (one of the best alternate-history/magician fantasies ever written) and this year's *Ptolemy's Gate*. This trilogy, which should be cross-shelved in the adult section of the library (but isn't; instead it's bizarrely cross-shelved in children's) deals incisively with class, betrayal and slavery alongside a mix of fast-paced adventure and

acerbic comments from a footnote-writing demon. Can't go wrong with Stroud.

And YA fantasy is blessed with the wonder-writing duo of Justine Larbalestier and Scott Westerfeld. Both of these superhero writers maintain witty, intelligent blogs (Larbalestier's is www.justinelarbalestier.com/blog and Westerfeld's is www.scottwesterfeld.com/blog) as they zip around the planet and pump out the books. Actually, Westerfeld is more like a conglomerate (though he's only one person, or so Larbalestier claims), and I marvel at the punishing pace at which he pushes out trilogies and stand-alones. A Westerfeld beginner might start with the cool-making alterworld of *So Yesterday* and then get hooked on the foreseeable futuristic *Uglies/Pretties/Specials* tomes before perhaps hopscotching to the parasitic vampire adventure *Peeps* and its more-recent-but-not-as-interesting companion novel *The Last Days*. The most consistently fascinating group of books is the *Midnighters* trilogy, with more character development and more heart-pounding adventure than the others (though one Westerfeld fan at *EW* claims it's "a little too WB-friendly," which might be true in a *Roswell* sort of way).

Larbalestier produces at a saner rate (yes, that's right; she hasn't gotten shingles from writing as her husband did); her first trilogy, which began with 2005's *Magic or Madness*, continued with *Magic Lessons* this year and concludes (maybe!) with next March's *Magic's Child*. This series, which bounces from NYC to Sydney with accompanying twists of slang, takes place in under a week. In that week, young people fall in love, get smacked around by golems, learn to control magic, drink too much, keep their energy away from bloodsucking grandparents, rescue crazy parents and oh, so much more. Even ignoring Diana Wynne-Jones' latest *Crestomanci* book, Catherine Fisher's *The Oracle Prophecies* trilogy, Edith Pattou's massive *East* and too many others to mention, the world of young adult fantasy can provide many an imaginative treat this rainy winter. — *Suzi Steffen*

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rect world of Jackson's San Francisco, they prefer to be called twofers. (Twofer culture could easily be read as gay culture, black culture or feminine culture.)

The novel satirically picks at the moral issues implicated in a dual-brain, one-body creature. For example, how does a twofer avoid incest when engaging in sex? Should twofers be given two passports, two seats on a plane, two votes? Should one body and one brain define a person?

Nora, the narrator, describes the experience of a twofer by asking, "Singletons, have you never felt such violent indecision that you stopped in your tracks looking one way and then the other, not so much standing still as suspended between equal and opposite forces? That is the condition we woke into every morning." Nora and Blanche are the Jekyll and Hyde of Jackson's alternate reality, pushed and pulled to the brink of madness.

To make matters worse, Blanche has been in a deep sleep for the past twenty years, but still wakes at inopportune moments to throw objects across the room (all of which is blamed on Nora). So Nora, distressed, attempts to abort Blanche at a secret clinic in England.

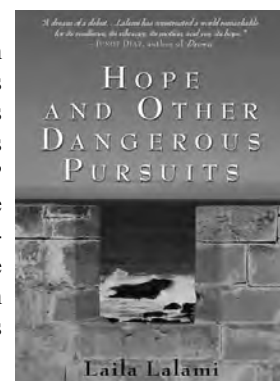
The societal circus that slants for and against these types of operations is a scathing satire on the abortion question. Lost in the fray of Jackson's overreaching novel is Nora's personal struggle with Blanche — which is ultimately a personal dialogue with her body. Is Blanche still alive? Does she want out, too? What is at stake when half of you isn't you anymore? — *Chuck Adams*

Trying Not to Drown

Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits by Laila Lalami. Harvest Books, 2006. Paperback, \$13. FINALIST, 2006 OREGON BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION.

Last fall, when *Hope and Dangerous Pursuits* came out in hardcover, the literary blog world chattered. The book was written by Portland literary blogger Laila Lalami (her blog is Moorishgirl, www.lailalalami.com/blog). How many books have you read lately about Moroccan immigrants to Spain? Yeah, that's what I thought, and Spain, with an immigration rate far, far higher than that of the supposedly immigrant-overwhelmed U.S., doesn't have a whole lot of fiction about the Moroccan immigrant experience either. Lalami's well-written debut novel should start a cascade of other books about this massive movement of humanity.

The book begins as a crowd of 30 Moroccan immigrants desperately try to keep their wits about them on a raft in the Strait of Gibraltar, headed for a desired future in Spain. The raft, like so many other conveyances of desperate immigrants, doesn't quite stand up to its function. Four of the survivors are the main focus of the rest of the book: Faten, a devout young woman who would like to pursue more education but can't afford to; Halima, a woman with children who's trying to get away from her abusive husband; Aziz Ammor, who hopes to find work and fund his wife; and Murad, the most clearly drawn of the four, a college-educated, sensitive and smart man who can only find work taking tourists on Paul Bowles tours. What happens to them after the Guardia Civil finds them washed up on the shores of Spain? A story familiar to those who read about Latin American immigrants to the U.S. becomes a keen lament for an ancient, revered civilization that, thanks to colonialism and economic imperialism, can't provide for its citizens. Murad, especially, will linger in the minds of educated Americans long after they finish this short, potent, beautifully written work. — *Suzi Steffen*

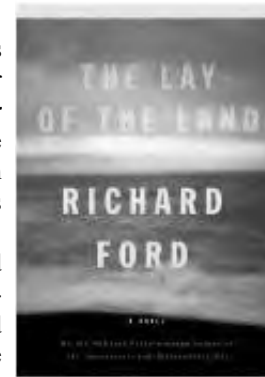


The Permanent Period

The Lay of the Land by Richard Ford. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$26.95. A NEW YORK TIMES BEST BOOK OF 2006.

Richard Ford's *The Lay of the Land*, the third novel in his Frank Bascomb trilogy, is hardly a departure from his earlier work. This is by no means a bad thing. Like *The Sportswriter* (1986) and *Independence Day* (1995), Ford's latest explores the emotional tension and middle-age angst of its narrator through his musings, observations and sometimes rambling anecdotes regarding New Jersey realty.

Picking up 12 years after *Independence Day* left off, Ford rejoins Frank in the days leading up to Thanksgiving, with a backdrop of the 2000 election debacle where presidential hopes — and ballot chads — hang in the balance. Frank has reached what he describes as "the permanent period" of his life, a time no longer dedicated to "becoming," but simply to "being." But being isn't easy for Frank; he has recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer (surprisingly a catalyst for humor in the book), and his second wife has run off with her ex-husband, whom they had assumed was dead.





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While the action of the story includes several striking moments of violence, the heart of the novel lies in the constantly developing — though at times regressing — character of Frank Bascomb. His earnest efforts to live in the present moment are undercut by his inability to cope with his son's death, an event that has plagued him for two decades.

The Lay of The Land succeeds, certainly owing to Ford's wit and mastery of prose, in allowing the reader to be so acutely entwined in Frank's consciousness and so deeply caught up in his circumstances that we revel in his successes and in those moments of heartbreak come to understand what he does: that "happy, as my poor father used to say, is a lot of hooley. Happy is a circus clown, a sitcom, a greeting card. Life, though, life's about something sterner. But also something better." — *Tony Perez*

No Exit

The Night Watch by Sarah Waters. Riverhead Books, 2006. Paperback, \$15. SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2006 MAN BOOKER PRIZE.

Waters' evocative novel of WWII London might seem to cover familiar terrain, but with every detail of the lives of her characters, Waters paints a picture of London life we don't often get to see. Each of her main characters — Duncan, Duncan's sister Vi, Vi's coworker Helen and Helen's ex-girlfriend Kay — inhabits a small world, a world of restricted choices and loneliness, a world where wartime choices resonate for years. The novel begins in 1947 and progresses back to 1941, a rather odd choice but an interesting one, forcing readers to re-evaluate the choices and actions of the characters in the first section of the novel after reading the final bit.

Most English-language readers have a variety of books, movies and images of London during the Blitz filling our heads. Yet how many people know that women headed night watch ambulances during the bombings? Unable to go into air raid shelters, they waited for the bombs to drop and sped out to find survivors. Kay, a wealthy and quite butch lesbian, enjoys her duties as part of the night watch and finds herself at loose ends after the war. Helen, now working an office job and living with a beautiful and rather famous writer, feels class distinctions and jealousy limiting her love for her partner, and Vi, who met her married lover when he was a soldier during the war, longs for some sort of resolution to her plight. Duncan was a young man too in love to resist his best friend's morbid ideas about war resistance. Duncan's story might be one of the bleakest, but every piece of this carefully constructed tale unwinds with resigned acknowledgement that humans find relationships (and destroy them) even in the most dire of circumstances. — *Suzi Steffen*

Required Reading

Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl. Viking, 2006. Hardcover, \$25.95. A *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST BOOK OF 2006.

"Dad always said a person must have a magnificent reason for writing out his or her Life Story and expecting anyone to read it," begins the dramatically named Blue van Meer, the young protagonist of Marisha Pessl's engaging, engrossing debut. Blue's dad, as we quickly learn, is a super-père of sorts, the subject of Blue's deepest admiration and an itinerant pro-

fessor who educates the hyperliterate Blue as they drift from town to town. When the drifting comes to a stop in Stockton, N.C., for Blue's senior year in high school, Blue is drawn (somewhat forcefully) into a new group of friends, one headed by the charismatic presence of the school's unconventional film teacher, Hannah Schneider.

It's a strange year for Blue, encompassing tricky friendships, drama, drinking, snooping, dating, disappearances, death, ostracism and life-changing upheaval. In tone, *Special Topics in Calamity Physics* has something in common with Daniel Handler's underappreciated *The Basic Eight*, though Handler's book is darker and Pessl's much more of a mystery — and more ambitious. *Special Topics* is broken into three parts; each part's chapters are named for classic works and, as far as this reader can tell, written with something in common with those classics (in "Pygmalion," naturally, Blue gets a makeover). It's a flashy structure, but it works frightfully well. The "final exam" at the end is less satisfying, but *Special Topics* couldn't have ended in an ordinary fashion. Through the changeable, uncertain lives of teenagers, the enviably talented Pessl explores the foibles of adults who are not what they seem — not as strong, not as wise, not as reliable. But she does this while traipsing smartly and irreverently through the fields of the Western canon, turning everything from Shakespeare to Kesey into a chapter in Blue's remarkable life. With visual aids, a perfectly calibrated dose of irony and a dry, sharp-eyed sense of humor, Pessl's stellar novel is a tough one to put down. — *Molly Templeton*

Self-Evident Truths, Betrayed

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. One: The Pox Party by M.T. Anderson. Candlewick Press, 2006. Hardcover, \$17.99. WINNER, 2006 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE.

Tobin Anderson crafts his books with an eye to the meaning of language; his disturbing *Feed* (2002) mirrors the language of youth today and turns it, frighteningly, into parental-speak (it also contains a superb first sentence: "We went to the moon to have fun, but the moon turned out to completely suck."). He also revels in placing his characters in situations that are fraught with moral complications, as in *Feed* and *Thirst*, his debut novel, in which a young boy faces his genetic destiny as a vampire. But *Pox Party* trumps his other novels in complexity, character development and the moral rigor required of those reading the book.

At the beginning, Octavian's life seems wonderful, if a bit constrained; he's a pet, educated in Greek and Latin, who learns the violin and wears beautiful clothing made especially for him. Yes, he does appear to have a lot of teachers or masters, but his mother, whom he describes as a princess, lives with him and provides him with warmth. Oddities



creep in: He's made to weigh his feces and record the differences in weight between the food he eats and the food he eliminates. Soon enough, he discovers that he and his mother are no different from the slaves who serve them, and when funding dries up for the quasi-scientific experiments being conducted upon him, he must deal with his place within the horrors of his time.

Set at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, *Pox Party* is told in Octavian's voice (as he later writes a journal) and in the voice of a white soldier fighting for the fledgling country, writing letters home to his sister. Anderson's carefully written language flowers fully in both sections. The changes in Octavian's voice and the horror of what happens to his mother and to him creates a work of exquisite power and moral compass. What some humans do when they assume absolute rule collides with Octavian's thrust toward personhood, and the complicated results of the pox party (yes, an historical phenomenon that is as real as the experiments conducted on Octavian) lead to an agonizing read. The language and craft might distance some readers from the plot, but both the intellectually and the emotionally engaged reader will leave the book saddened, stunned and wishing volume two were available now. — *Suzi Steffen*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Portrait of Secrets Past

Fun Home by Alison Bechdel. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Hardcover, \$19.95. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

Fun Home should hands-down win a major award this year. But what would it be? Graphic novels haven't quite caught on with award-givers even though this one, with its smart weave of the visual and verbal, its intertextuality and its beautifully rendered story of secrets, lies and unbearable connections, ranks with the highest-quality memoirs, like Mary Karr's *The Liars Club* or Blake Morrison's *And When Did You Last See Your Father*. (For that matter, memoirs don't habitually win major literary prizes; perhaps selection committees find footnotes more compelling than memory.)

Like Craig Thompson's searing and vulnerable *Blankets* (2003), *Fun Home* explores the intimate connections between imagery and the written word, using its grey washes and blue undertones to convey the childhood world of Bechdel's memory. Bechdel builds her story with subtle art,



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in some cases mixing hand-inked reproductions of photos, panels of other people's memories, scenes from movies and pieces of reproduced handwriting. The "fun home" of the title refers to Bechdel's childhood house, a rotting Victorian restored in loving, obsessive detail by her funeral director father. He's also an English teacher fascinated by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Marcel Proust, a fairly abusive parent, a distant husband and a man who loves having young men helping out around the house. Any hints about what *his* family secret might be?

Well, moving on: Bechdel goes through what she calls an obsessive-compulsive year in her prepubescence, and as she recovers, her father starts seeing a psychiatrist. "I'm bad, not good like you," he tells her, in a heartbreaking scene. But the teenage Bechdel knows that while she might not be "bad," she's very different from her peers. Soon enough, her life and her dad's secret collide. This intensely moving, delicately brilliant book, its literary and film referents serving not as shorthand but as support, deserves a large and loyal readership. —
Suzi Steffen

Once Upon a Time

Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall by Bill Willingham
 with various illustrators. Vertigo, 2006. Hardcover, \$19.99.

If you haven't heard of Fables, Bill Willingham's Eisner Award-winning comic book series, never fear: this fall's addition to the line, *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall*, takes place "at least a century" before the previously published books, making it a perfect — and perfectly gorgeous — starting point. The Fables series imagines the stories you haven't heard about the characters everyone knows: Snow White, the Big Bad Wolf, Old King Cole. Driven from their enchanted homelands by an enemy known only as The Adversary, the Fables make their new home in a secret corner of New York City (those who can't pass for human live upstate, on The Farm).

But that's now; *1001 Nights of Snowfall* is then. The book wraps a handful of old tales in new skins, like that of Bigby the wolf, and takes a few happily ever afters to unhappy conclusions, as in "A Frog's Eye View," illustrated in beautiful greenish sepia by James Jean. The stories are framed within a Scheherazade device that puts Fable leader Snow White in the palace of a sultan with whom she seeks an alliance. Misled into thinking she's going to speak to him of politics, not be his bride for the night and his victim in the morning, Snow postpones her death night after night with stories of the Fables. Each story has a different illustrator; some of the most striking work is done by Jean, Esao Andrews and Tara McPherson, whose Snow White and Rose Red sport pincurls and sharp, hipster bangs. McPherson's panels have a surreal simplicity that perfectly suits the Fables world, in which two sisters looking for shelter come across an old woman who, in story-within-a-story "The Witch's Tale," reveals herself as the witch in *all* the old stories. But even she deserves help fleeing The Adversary. Willingham's origin stories don't have quite the narrative tension of the first few Fables volumes, but his strange, familiar world remains irresistibly imagined.

— *Molly Templeton*



An Unfulfilled Life

Chicken With Plums by Marjane Satrapi. Pantheon Books, 2006. Hardcover, \$16.95.

Marjane Satrapi's familial line includes Nasser-al-Din Shah, her great-great-grandfather and Shah of Iran from 1848 to 1896. Satrapi grew up in a liberal family in Tehran until 1983, when at the age of 14 she was sent to Vienna to escape the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic revolution. Now an award-winning illustrator and best-selling author, Satrapi shared the story of her childhood in her autobiographical graphic novels *Persepolis* and *Persepolis 2*. She's written children's books and introduced readers to her family's bawdy female side in *Embroideries*, a graphic novel revealing how the womenfolk really felt about sex and gender roles.

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This time, Satrapi invites us to Tehran circa 1958, into the life of her great-uncle, Nasser Ali Khan. Though a revered musician, Khan earns little money and contributes almost nothing to the household or care of the children. His wife grows resentful, and one day in a rage she breaks Khan's beloved *tar*. After a fruitless search to replace his prized instrument with one of equal quality, he takes to his bed, reliving a lifetime of experiences through dreams, visions and visits from family members trying to snap him out of his funk. Eight days later, he is dead. Satrapi's imaginative retelling of his last hours has her great-uncle lusting after a hallucination of Sophia Loren and conversing with the Angel of Death. Over the course of eight chapters we view the continuum of Nasser Ali Khan's life, from his childhood to his children's futures, along the way discovering what, to him, makes life worth living.

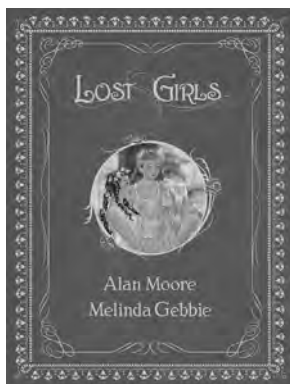
Satrapi's images are starkly drawn in black and white, almost like block prints. With few embellishments she reveals complex emotions and rich personal history, weaving her family's multigenerational experiences into the political backdrop of a beloved homeland in turmoil. My only complaint is that the slim volume ends just as I was wanting more. Given Satrapi's unfailing imagination and seemingly endless family inspiration, there's surely more to come. — *Vanessa Salvia*

Lost But Not Lonely

Lost Girls by Alan Moore, illustrated by Melinda Gebbie. Top Shelf Productions, 2006. Hardcover, \$75.

Alan Moore (*V for Vendetta*, *From Hell*) is lauded as the greatest living comic book writer, a Shakespeare of the graphic novel. Your high school English teacher might think that's like saying he's CEO of a hot dog cart, but Moore's fans take him seriously, counting the days between infrequent releases, work that elevates superheroes and science fiction to the rarified level of high literature.

Moore's thrust with the newly released *Lost Girls*, a 15-year collaboration with his partner (creative and romantic), artist Melinda Gebbie, is to elevate pornography in a similar fashion. Three women meet at an Austrian hotel on the eve of WWI and learn they have more in common than restlessness and sexual frustration. For these women are grown-up fantasy heroines Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*, Wendy from *Peter Pan* and Alice from *Through the Looking-Glass*. The three become friends and quickly lovers, crafting private interpretations of their fantastic pasts, in which farmhouse-relocating twisters, flights over pirate-infested



islands and tumbles down the occasional rabbit hole represent erotic adventures.

Lost Girls is not for kids; besides its adult content, the beast weighs in at over 300 pages. The plotline is more sexual than sexy — incest, rape, bestiality and underage sex all figure prominently — but utilizing the shared narrative universe concept Moore perfected in *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, the creators craft an understated comment on art, life and war at the turn of the 20th century, woven within the overt storyline of their protagonists' escapades.

Mixed critical reaction to such themes is inevitable, mirrored by the project's frequent legal red flags. Portland-based publisher Top Shelf Productions held its collective breath as the book squeaked through Canadian customs, and rights issues have arisen surrounding the *Peter Pan* characters. For all its problematic content, however, Moore and Gebbie's new book is a compelling and unsettling masterwork. — *Aaron Ragan-Fore*

NONFICTION

What's Coming to Dinner?

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan. The Penguin Press, 2006. Hardcover, \$26.95. A *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST BOOK OF 2006.

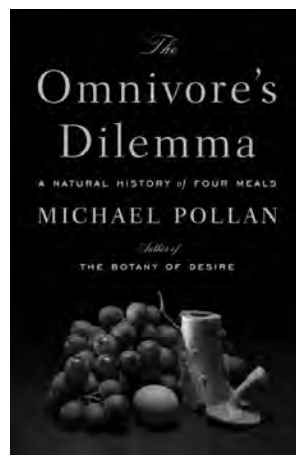
In 400-odd pages of extensively researched, friendly, funny prose, *New York Times Magazine* writer Michael Pollan (*The Botany of Desire*) will turn your food world upside down. Or perhaps he won't; in this area, plenty of people are exceedingly well-informed about eating locally and organically. But even for those familiar with the farmers' world, Pollan's book is an impressively enjoyable trip through four variations on the American food chain.

He begins with large-scale industrial food production, trying to trace one bushel of corn from its start in an Iowa field to its likely end, in one form or another, in a fast food meal. Corn's ubiquitousness is fascinating and horrifying; Pollan can't get access to the massive companies which turn the innocuous plant into chemicals and additives, but he writes about corn's central place in our diets and the diet of many of the animals we eat as informedly as possible.

From industrial feedlots, where cows are forced to eat grain though their stomachs are designed to digest grasses, Pollan ventures a step smaller, into "industrial organic" growing and farming, the staples of stores like Whole Foods. What he uncovers here is likely to upset those who hoped to believe that when we bought that free range chicken, it was a chicken that had actually been outdoors at some point in its short life. Likely as not, it wasn't, and Pollan deftly explains why. The most uplifting section of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is the time Pollan spends on the small-scale, natural, organic farm of Joel Salatin. The author spends a week learning the

ways of the farm and coming to understand how the healthiest process is not found raising a single crop, but raising animals and plants together, letting one's natural processes assist the others. The author and the farmer are aware that this is unlikely to happen on a large scale, but simply by telling the story of how it works, they lend weight to the argument for CSAs and for knowing where your food comes from — which, in essence, is the crux of Pollan's book. In the fourth section, he traces the food path back to its beginning: He hunts, gathers, grows and forages for a complete meal, killing a pig, harvesting mushrooms, even baking bread with the help of the yeast that live in the air.

After each exploration of a food system, Pollan sits down to a meal made with meats and plants grown through that system — and it's no surprise to read that the foods that take the shortest path to the table taste the best. Pollan's book may inspire you to be more careful about what you select for each meal. It's not simply what he learns that has such an impact but the humorous, personal way in which he writes. Pollan went in to this massive project with some ideas about what he'd learn, but things surprise him along the way — and the reader shares in the joy, the pleasure and the education. We are what we eat, certainly; perhaps we are what we read, as well. And *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is one hell of a read. — *Molly Templeton*

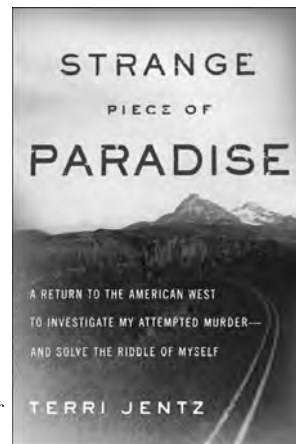


Burying the Hatchet

Strange Piece of Paradise by Terri Jentz. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Hardcover, \$27. A *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

Terri Jentz's transcontinental bike trek doesn't bode well for Oregon tourism. Potential visitors, however much they enjoy her descriptions of our state's natural beauty, will have second thoughts as Jentz and her college roommate are deliberately run over by a truck and then hacked to the brink of death by a sociopath with an axe.

Like many books in its genre, *Strange Piece of Paradise* recounts a vicious attack and seeks to investigate the circumstances and emotional traumas behind it. Rarely, however, does the victim of so brutal a crime live to be the one to investigate it.



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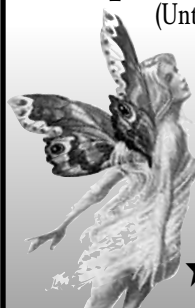


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For 15 years after the 1977 attack, Jentz lived in denial, assuring herself that the anonymous assailant had no power over her. Eventually, she came to realize that in order to truly come to terms with the physical and emotional scars, she needed to put a face to the cowboy abdomen that loomed over her that night.

Her inquiries reveal a probable suspect (an understatement) and uncover an embarrassingly sloppy job on the part of Oregon law enforcement. Though Jentz's search is for a specific perpetrator, the most compelling thread of the book is the realization that this brutality could happen anywhere. A librarian Jentz meets during her research explains why the story is so powerful and why it still stuck out in her mind after 15 years: "It was the randomness of the event, the violence of [it]. The fact that it made me, as a woman, feel vulnerable."

At times the prose seems a bit overwrought — with so sensational an event, it seems that plain, simple language would be more powerful — but one gets the feeling that like her investigation, writing this book was part of her healing. If the occasional flowery metaphor comes with that territory, who am I to complain? — *Tony Perez*

Fire. Smokey. Now.

Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy edited by George Wuerthner. Foundation for Deep Ecology by arrangement with Island Press, 2006. Paperback, \$22.50. Also available: the smaller *Wildfire Reader*, with no photos, \$13.75.

Reader advisory: This hefty, beautifully illustrated book — about as wide as a 25-year-old Doug fir stump — is likely to piss off the following: timber companies, loggers, Forest Service firefighters, the Oregon Board of Forestry, OSU College of Forestry administrators, herbicide companies, Columbia Helicopters and everyone else invested in the Old Forestry view that people should "manage" nature's wild forces in order to serve humanity's material needs.

In that line of thinking, wildfire is bad; it steals valuable timber that could have been logged and converted into useful things like paper and houses. Thus the development of a "fire-military-industrial" complex linking the Forest Service to industry and siphoning billions of tax dollars to fight fires on public lands.

Today, ecologists recognize that fire suppression does incalculable damage to forests that have evolved with wildfire, hijacking their natural processes and helping turn them, slowly but surely, into tree farms. Which, not incidentally, is convenient for timber companies hankering to log in public forests, and for land grant universities such as OSU that get a cut of the timber revenue.

In *Wildfire*, a project of the Foundation for Deep Ecology, more than 25 fire ecology experts — including Eugene's Timothy Ingalsbee — propose that wildfires are good, and that people's attempts to control them ultimately backfire. "While this book is about fire policy and fire ecology, it is also a discussion of a much larger philosophical debate over the ultimate role and influence humans should have on natural landscapes," editor George Wuerthner states in the introduction.

EW was privy to an email string between Big Timber allies reacting to this book. "Makes a feller retch," former OSU forestry professor Mike Newton wrote. "These guys have money," replied Bob Zybach of Oregon Websites and Watersheds, a timber think tank of sorts. "I plan to finger and smudge a copy in the bookstore, and then not buy it," added Lebanon tree farmer Mike Dubrasich, who administers the right-wing forestry blog SOSForests.com.

Their reactions only confirm the deep schism in forestry circles over how to handle wildfire. Those who subscribe to the old utilitarian view are sure to hate *Wildfire*; those who are deep ecologists, or open to their ideas, are likely to find it a valuable reference. The photos are gorgeous, the writing passionate and the mission clear: Fire Smokey the Bear, and let the forests burn, baby. — *Kera Abraham*

Deeper Than the Media Spin

Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq by Stephen Kinzer. Times Books, 2006. Hardcover, \$27.50.

In *Overthrow*, Stephen Kinzer takes the reader on a 110-year journey through the many times the U.S. actively worked to overthrow foreign governments, beginning with Hawaii in 1893 and closing with the latest round in Iraq. Compared to many recent political books, this one is straightforward, clearly outlining the historical facts as revealed through various documents without much editorializing. Kinzer's style is neutral enough that my ultra-conservative family enjoyed reading it when I passed it on to them. (I thought they'd scream bloody liberals.)

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Let me tell you that though I am not one who usually enjoys reading history (I struggled with the subject in school primarily due to my inability to stay awake when reading the text), I thoroughly enjoyed *Overthrow*. Kinzer's written style is engaging and his book hard to put down. Divided into three sections, the book chronicles the shift in U.S. foreign policy as the social climate changed — from overt imperialistic moves to covert actions to the all-out invasions of recent history. He outlines the coups as the government and individuals planned them as well as the media spin on the same actions.



Each of the stories of intrigue, maneuvering and murder leads up to the moment of overthrow, of full engagement. He leaves the rest of the history of the wars, the aftermaths, the chaos that fills the vacuum of deposed leadership to other writers and other history books. Many of the stories from that point we already know. Only in his concluding chapter does Kinzer point out that "Most of these adventures have brought [Americans], and the nations whose histories they sought to change, far more pain than liberation." — *Paula Hoemann*

Full Disclosure

Armed Madhouse by Greg Palast. Dutton, 2006. Hardcover, \$25.95.

"So what are you going to do about it?"

I don't think I'm giving anything away by starting with that quote from the last paragraph of Greg Palast's latest book. Full of fascinating rants mixed with lots of information and quite all over the map, *Armed Madhouse* could make anyone despair of being any use at all in this modern version of democracy that we enjoy. Yet full disclosure is at the start and heart of any real democracy, and that's what Palast aims for here. With a tabloid style, he parses the war on terror, big oil, peak oil, the new global order's economics, election fraud, the class war and Katrina. It's a wild ride through the mind and politics of Palast, supported by reams of research and documentation compiled by his staff. Thus something potentially dry becomes almost comedic, although definitely dark.

After 20 years as an investigator of corporate fraud and

racketeering, Palast turned his skills to investigative journalism. However, given the corporate control of most media in the United States, he has found it hard to get his reports printed here. The BBC has no trouble with his content, however, and he has made England, where he is well respected, his home. *Armed Madhouse*, a lively compilation of stories the U.S. media skirted, is not only fun to read but will strip more veils than a belly dancer. — *Paula Hoemann*

Wayne's World

Staring at Sound: The True Story of Oklahoma's Fabulous Flaming Lips by Jim DeRogatis. Broadway Books, 2006. Paperback, \$14.95.

No band deserves a written retrospective more than the Flaming Lips, and no writer deserves to write it more than Jim DeRogatis. They're the perfect match; neither is in lock-step with popular taste, though each finds occasional, and deep, affection from the mainstream.

Staring at Sound is a story of the personalities behind the band. There are discussions of the music (DeRogatis is, after all, a music critic), but they're anecdotes next to Wayne Coyne's family drama of trust lost and regained. Coyne is the star here, both in the book and in the band. DeRogatis opens with Coyne's father, the ever-trusting, bootstrap-lifting American, and his mother, who believes that anything worth achieving is gained through constant work. Together, they set Wayne and his brother Mark free to be the rock band they want to be.

Pausing Coyne's story, the book turns to the band's other founder, Michael Ivins. As a solid yet still supporting player in the band's direction, Ivins gets his story told, then gets out of the spotlight. That is, he's out until part of his story coincides with Coyne's story. Same goes for the other members and former members. We read a page of their background, and then they enter Wayne's World. Though this time travel can be confusing at some points (a chronology appendix would have been a nice addition), DeRogatis remembers often to remind the reader of his place in the band's timeline.

It's all terrific backstory, which is important for the Lips. Fans of their current rich, orchestral music can learn to appreciate the rough rock on which the band begun. Old



fans who've dismissed their current work can gain appreciation for Coyne's work ethic and his and Ivins' vision for the next albums. — *Jeffrey Stout*

Putting Down Roots

Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime by Kenneth L. Helphand. Trinity University Press, 2006. Hardcover, \$34.95.

Finishing Kenny Helphand's wonderful new book over the Thanksgiving holiday, an event all about home and plenty, was an odd experience. The people described in these pages are far from home, starving or both. Most also face mortal danger. Helphand, a professor of landscape architecture at the UO, vividly describes a landscape architecture from hell: the bizarre world of the trenches at the European Front in WWI, where exhausted soldiers mired in unspeakable horror spent time and effort to make gardens and restore the shattered land. It's the details that are most touching: immaculate rows of celery, lovingly tended in the bottom of a trench; snowdrops growing in cartridge cases; soldiers begging for flower seeds in their letters home.

Why did they do it? Because, in a nutshell, gardens promise beauty where there is none, hope over despair and life in the face of death. There's more to it, of course, and as the author digs down to examine how gardens do all that, he uncovers plenty of fascinating material. WWII ghetto gardens, not surprisingly, were largely concerned with food. Pathetically often they were also doomed to fail, but the very act of gardening was an act of resistance where no other was possible. It also provided a trace of cultural continuity, a reminder of a life free from deprivation and humiliation.

Purposeful, productive work can keep you sane. The therapeutic nature of the *work* of gardening emerges in the ghetto chapter and is enlarged on in the examination of POWs and wartime internees. For interned Japanese-Americans, for instance, camp life provided the time and opportunity to construct amazingly elaborate gardens in the bleakest places. They moved huge rocks and dug and transported full grown trees. Humans seem to have an innate affinity with the natural world; even a leaf in a glass or a distant view of something green can boost the spirits. To be able to connect with that world through one's own labor and ingenuity is something worth living for. — *Rachel Foster*





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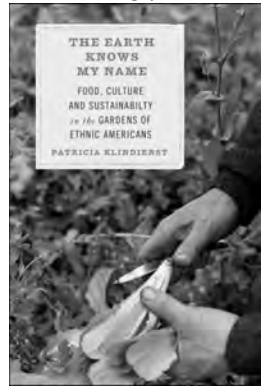
The Earth Knows My Name: Food, Culture and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans by Patricia Klindienst. Beacon Press, 2006. Hardcover, \$26.95.

"First you lose your costume. Then you lose your language. The last thing you lose is your food." These words from a Polish-American vintner encapsulate the author's argument that gardening — and food gardening in particular — can provide a way to preserve and connect with one's cultural heritage.

The book opens with a riveting retelling of the story of Sacco and Vanzetti, Italian immigrants whose trial and execution Klindienst calls one of the greatest betrayals of ethnic America in the 20th century. In a letter written shortly before his execution, Vanzetti gives a lyrical account of his father's extensive food gardens in Italy. The letter's energy, the author argues, suggests that the garden embodied for Vanzetti "a map to a moral universe ... that transcends intolerance and injustice."

Klindienst visited and interviewed farmers and gardeners with roots all over the world. Among them are African-Americans in South Carolina, a Japanese-American berry farmer on Bainbridge Island, survivors of the Pol Pot regime and a Yankee farmer who returns seed of white Indian corn to tribes from which it was long ago taken, along with their land, by his own ancestors. These accounts are colorful, beautifully written and often deeply moving.

Like *Defiant Gardens*, this book is about oppressed and disadvantaged people finding comfort, purpose and dignity in gardening. The author's attempt to tie their stories into a statement about ethnicity and the land seems a little forced at times. Far more compelling for me is the profound attachment these people feel for the soil and the self respect and community that grows from their contact with it. — *Rachel Foster*



Families Are Hell

The Discomfort Zone: A Personal History by Jonathan Franzen. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Hardcover, \$22. A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2006.

The scene at the end of the first essay in Jonathan Franzen's new collection, *The Discomfort Zone*, is the one you read aloud when someone asks, "What's so great about Jonathan Franzen?"

He's recounting a trip to Disneyworld that his middle class suburban parents forced him to go on when he was 15. He's fought with his mother over clothes and she's won, making him wear pleated shorts and a "Bing Crosbyish" sport shirt. In return, he's refused to ride any rides or enjoy himself. His mother demands that the family ride something, so he chooses a merry-go-round. In a photograph of this, his mother captures his father with "a look of resignation that summarized his life."

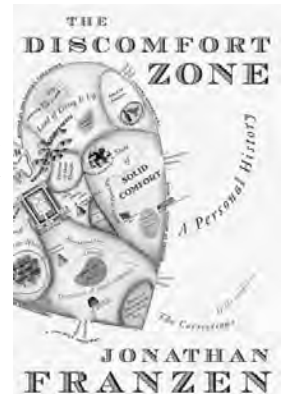
The last sentence of the essay is equally devastating: "And we were all equally sorry to be riding the merry-go-round, and we were all equally at a loss to explain what had happened to us."


It's essential Franzen. Few have written with such cringing eloquence about the complicated stew of feelings that result from the gap between who our parents want us to be and who we are. His popular novel *The Corrections* covered similar territory.

While there's plenty of navel gazing in *The Discomfort Zone* and plenty of Franzen showing off how clever he is (one essay recounts the pranks he and his smart friends played on his high school faculty under the name DIOTI, an anagram for idiot), Franzen also has a natural curiosity that leads him to some interesting topics — from Charles Schultz and the evolution of "Peanuts" to the literature of Goethe. Franzen weaves these subplots into his own story, blurring the line between the personal and the expository like the master essayist he is.

The final essay is perhaps the best example of that seamlessness. In it, Franzen draws connections between his relationships with women, his yearning for children, global warming and his obsession with birdwatching. It ends on an uncharacteristically hopeful note, leaving this reader wondering if Franzen might be writing about his own children next time.

— *Jamie Passaro*





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Riot Act

Bitchfest: Ten Years of Cultural Criticism from the Pages of Bitch Magazine edited by Lisa Jervis & Andi Zeisler. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Paperback, \$16.

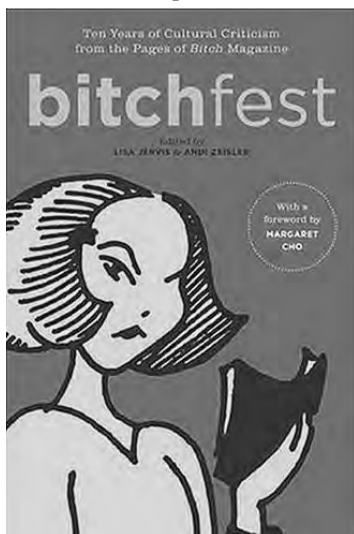
The following is what the founders of *Bitch* magazine would like you to know: 1. Feminism is not over. 2. The media lacks respect for women, queers and non-labeled persons (including any man who doesn't fit the predetermined "breadwinner, stud and beefcake" category). 3. You can do something about it.

That's the gist of the 58 essays in this anthology, released to celebrate the tenth anniversary of *Bitch*. Each is unapologetic as you'd expect from something with a name my mother would term "nasty." The writers find a problem, and, well, bitch about it. The topics range from the light, such as the politics of restroom design, to the heavy, like a call for the end of the victimization of rape, um, "victims."

Bitchfest isn't simply feminist theory. It's a cultural critique of everything pop. Instead of a discussion about abortion legislation, *Bitch* examines what sitcoms and family dramas reflect about abortion. Rather than the latest polls about women in the workplace, there are analyses of cleaning product commercials.

This method has its positives and its negatives. Since life imitates art as much as art imitates life, there's a need for monitoring what art has to say about feminism. However, if you're unaware of the film, song or show used as an example, the essay falls flat. For the media-savvy reader, it's great fun and thoughtful reading. For the scholar without a television, it may as well be gibberish.

Overall, while this is the best of *Bitch*, it's not as good as *Bitch*. Without brief articles and bits of celebration to round out the long essays, *Bitchfest* can be a bit of drudgery that the magazine never is. — Jeffrey Stout



The Levees of Our Naïveté

Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City by Jed Horne. Random House, 2006. Hardcover, \$25.95.

Maybe, like me, you're fascinated by extreme weather, like a car wreck on the interstate that you just can't avoid

looking at. You know it's horrible, yet the horror draws your eyes. Or perhaps what drove you to watch as Hurricane Katrina spun nearer to New Orleans was something much more personal: family in her way, friends at risk. Either way, most of us have seen what happened: the destruction of homes and neighborhoods, the stranded survivors, the appalling lack of services and supplies and the political finger pointing and finagling. So why read a book about it?

Breach of Faith takes the reader deeper than most of us experienced this event. For each aspect of his analysis, Jed Horne intertwines the private struggles of an individual or family with the bigger picture, diving into the personal lives of many New Orleans residents and recounting the leadup to Katrina's landfall and the various ways each survivor came through — no one unscathed. With the clarity of hindsight, he puts much of the chaos of the aftermath into perspective, taking the reader through the labyrinth of politics, emergency services, grassroots responses and congressional inquiry as the events unfold.

Given this, *Breach of Faith* is a quick read, a real pleasure as far as literary style goes. But don't get me wrong: This book will piss you off. It will frustrate you as you read of doctors prevented from providing CPR due to bureaucracy, and the twisted reasons rescuers with fleets of personal boats were held back from saving those stranded on rooftops. It will also inspire you as you meet everyday people from all over who rise to the overwhelming challenge before them and shine, saving neighbors and strangers.

Those are reasons to read this book. Add at least one more: Read it in case you still believe that, in a disaster, the cavalry will rush in and save your ass. — Paula Hoemann

Essential Contradictions

The Female Thing: Dirt, Sex, Envy, Vulnerability by Laura Kipnis. Pantheon, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.95.

In her fourth book, Northwestern University media studies professor Laura Kipnis (*Against Love*) takes on the transitory, conflicted position of women today — at least women who are straight, white and middle class or above, for the most part (Kipnis acknowledges that these women are her main subject). "What follows," she writes in the preface, "is an updated topography of the female psyche, along with notes on the four primary regions I've encountered there." If that sounds faintly dry, take another look at that title: *The Female Thing*. That sly, slangy use of the word "thing" is a clue: Kipnis is not your impenetrable, ivory-towered academic type. Her take on the matter of being a woman in the here and now is rooted in a down-to-earth, contradiction-welcoming feminism that doesn't blush at much of anything, and her lively prose is fresh and accessible.

The Female Thing's four parts don't always go the places you might expect. The heading "Envy" might call to mind issues of female jealousy and competition, but Kipnis looks instead at men and their "stuff" (salaries, rights) and at the

self-help industry's great quest to sell you things meant to fix imagined problems. But Kipnis holds women responsible for many of our own issues. In "Dirt," she takes a new look at the housework divide, asking whether men really don't do enough or if they just don't do it the way women want them to. "I'm sort of con-

testing a smugness or complacency in the way that women have started thinking about themselves," Kipnis said in a recent interview. She's certainly anything but complacent. Sassy, whip-smart and thought-provoking, *The Female Thing* may make you take a hard look — though a hard look with a sense of humor — at some of your own deeply held ideas about what being a woman means these days. — Molly Templeton

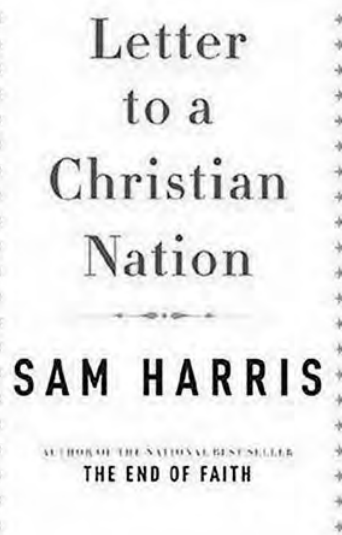


A Call to Arms

Letter to a Christian Nation by Sam Harris. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Hardcover, \$16.95.

Following God's example, Sam Harris gives his Christian readers an opportunity to exercise their free will by giving them a choice. "Either the Bible is just an ordinary book, written by mortals, or it isn't," he writes. "Either Christ was divine, or he was not. If the Bible is an ordinary book, and Christ an ordinary man, the basic doctrine of Christianity is false."

In his provocative little book, Harris draws a line in the sand by writing a letter to two types of Christians. He confronts fundamentalists with centuries-old logical inconsistencies and he challenges liberal Christians to stop being "tolerant" of the fundamentalists. Liberals should take a stand against



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these logical inconsistencies and moral inadequacies known as apologetics — weak explanations for the illogic and immorality found in the Bible.

First, Harris attacks Islam in order to get Christians to sympathize with the idea of refuting the basic tenets of a religion. In so doing, he is able to get many Christians who think Islam is a threat to the world to understand what it means to oppose someone else's religious viewpoint. But earlier, Harris points out that "every devout Muslim has the same reasons for being a Muslim that you have for being a Christian. ... Understand that the way you view Islam is precisely the way devout Muslims view Christianity."

Harris hopes some Christian readers will recognize their own fundamentalist extremists in this mirror — that anything they say about Islam applies to Christianity. Just as European secularists are reluctant to attack some excesses in Islam, so America's liberal Christians avoid confrontation with their own fundamentalist brethren.

It's a matter of life and death. Humans are capable of engaging in moral and intelligent behavior and can handle problems of human suffering through intellectual honesty and science. They can do it without religion because "the respect we accord religious faith" and the "flagrantly irrational" behavior that accompanies it "stand in the way." — *Gil Gaudia*

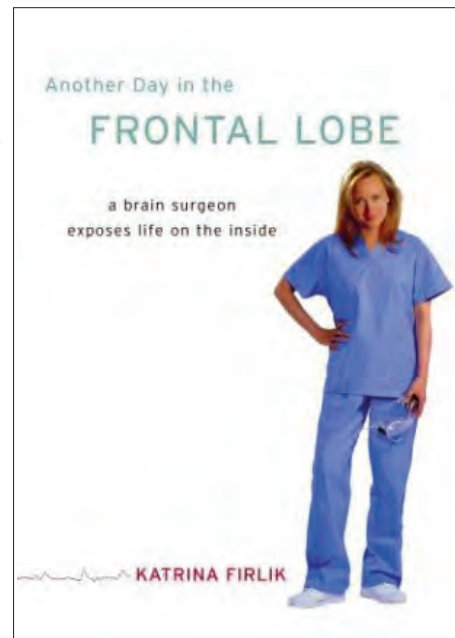
It /s Brain Surgery

**Another Day in the Frontal Lobe:
A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life On
The Inside** by Katrina Firlik. Random House,

2006. Hardcover, \$24.95.

Dr. Katrina Firlik doesn't divulge any tips on *how* to perform brain surgery; for that you must endure four years of medical school and seven years of training as she did. But Firlik, the first woman admitted to the prestigious neurosurgery residency program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, does explain why a person would *want* to crack open another person's skull. Her surprisingly engaging narrative offers humorous (yes, really!) insight into the daily life of a neurosurgeon.

From the grisly to the mundane, Firlik draws us into an inexplicable journey through the human brain. Throughout the book, we are privy to some of the shocking "locker room" talk of Firlik's cocky male colleagues. We meet some of her most



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memorable patients, like the young man with a new wife, newborn daughter and an incurable brain tumor whose diagnosis causes Firlik to break down in tears when delivering the news. We meet a carpenter with a barbed nail driven two inches into his left frontal lobe by a nail gun. He goes home within a day of surgery, but the seven-year old boy who develops bacterial meningitis because of an untreated ear infection isn't so lucky. We feel firsthand Firlik's fears and concerns as she works, alone in the ER for the first time, to save the life of an 18-year-old man injured in car accident.

A scant five percent of the 4,500 neurosurgeons in the U.S. are women, but Firlik doesn't let gender get in the way of telling her story. She reveals that sometimes navigating the bedside manners of her pompous colleagues can be trickier than surgery itself, and by the end of the book we realize that neurosurgeons aren't superheroes in lab coats, but regular people with their own stressful daily routines, albeit a bit more unusual than our own. — Vanessa Salvia

POETRY

Lunar Magick

Facts About the Moon by Dorianne Laux. W.W. Norton, 2006. Hardcover, \$23.95. WINNER, 2006 OREGON BOOK AWARD FOR POETRY.

In Dorianne Laux's forthright, passionate first-person poem "Superglue," her narrator observes her stuck-together fingers with a "blush of fear and the feeling of helpless infantile stupidity." Tempering her predicament with comic relief, she explores the source of her bodily desire for "more double-ness." She follows the golden thread to the provocative insight: "This is how I began inside my mother's belly, before I divided toe from toe, bloomed into separation like a peach-colored rose." Like many of Laux's poems, sex is the subject.

Last week, Laux won the 2006 Oregon Book Award for

Facts About the Moon, a new collection of 39 poems including "Superglue." Laux said she didn't know this poem about joining would become a sex poem. "I was surprised," she said, "but as my [UO] poetry students know, 'You can count on me.'"

Laux comes from a more liberated time, she said, a time when women were sexually open and willing to talk frankly about sex. "It's important sex be spoken of as part of our lives," she said, "so we have less to feel shamed about, fewer reasons to keep secrets." The challenge is how to write about sex in a serious way that helps integrate it into our daily lives, she said. Laux's plainsongs are antidotes to the sexcapades she called "the fodder of talk shows."

I've long cherished Laux's erotically toned poems for their sense that sex cannot be separated from the rest of life. And when Laux's language is carnal, as in "Kissing Again," no one gets it better: "...the luxuriant tonguing of another / spongy tongue, the deft flicking and feral sucking, / that prolonged lapping that makes a smooth stone / of the brain. ..."

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COMING SOON: DAVID LINDLEY 2/22 @ WOW HALL

In praise of remembered young lovers whom she calls the "back-then boys" in "The Lost," she writes: "I loved that they had their own private thoughts, thick / blue veins in their necks and cocks, branching veins / I traced up the backs of their calves, their hands / when they hung at their sides."

"Poolhall"'s undisguised sexiness is matched by the restraint of the men who are watching as "She leans over the felt, her pelvis / grazing the sheened maple rubbed / to a gloss by the musky oils / of men's naked forearms ..."

In "Vacation Sex," Laux writes about a married couple on the road during a busy summer, who share "one long glorious night in a cabin tucked in the woods / where our crooning and whooping started the coyotes / singing."

My favorite poem in this outstanding collection is modestly called "Face Poem." It's unlike any other love poem I have read; I am drawn by the imperfections of the lover's face and his observer's tender regard. You must read the entire poem to appreciate its alternating rhythms and intricate images in support of the beloved's well-worn, working-man's, deeply trusted face.

Barry Lopez hosted Literary Arts' sold-out Oregon Book Awards event Dec. 1, commenting that he "drove here under the gibbous moon," a veiled reference Laux said she later recognized to her book's title. After Lopez introduced her, Laux described poetry as "the little genre with the big heart." I think it is the poet whose heart overflows.

— Lois Wadsworth



FACTS ABOUT THE MOON

Dorianne Laux



EUGENE WEEKLY.COM

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WHAT'S happening



When we think of the Welsh countryside in winter, we see a drenched, dripping, moss-covered log from our perch behind fogged windows, perhaps a fire in the woodstove, and stories – lots of stories. In particular we think of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales," with its childlike wonder



and excitement. Luckily, Eugene much resembles the soggy bog of the Celtic countryside, and fortunately we have David Stuart Bull passing on this **Celtic Holiday** tradition with his deep English voice, with traditional Celtic music accompaniment by Linda Danielson and Chico Schwall (all three pictured), at Café Soriah today through Dec. 21. Should the food and entertainment tab prove too pricey for families, attend one of the performance-only shows at the Lord Leebrick on Saturday or Sunday. See Calendar.

According to the whims of the interplanetary rotations, mutations, moods and a magnetic north pole running wildly towards Russia, the earth begins its gentle tilt back towards the sun this week, starting on Dec. 14 as the sun sets a minute later than usual. However, the sun will continue to keep rising later and later until Jan. 7, so the actual winter solstice falls, uh ... somewhere in there. Let's just call it the winter solstice week and be done with it. Thus it's fitting that various solstice events happen this week, starting with **Winter Solstice Celebrations** at the UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History on Friday and the Yachats Commons on Saturday. On Wednesday, stretch your body and belly at the **Solstice Yoga and Vegetarian Potluck** at Yoga West. Finally, on Thursday, Dec. 21, listen to the **Orhagan Synagogue Winter Solstice Nature Readings** at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, attend the **Winter Solstice Goddess Celebration** at the WOW Hall or intermingle at Washington Park Clubhouse's **Hannukah/Winter Solstice Celebration**, because, you know, both have their pagan origins. Ever wonder why Christmas is celebrated during the solstice? See Calendar.

At the crack of a nut, we embark on the more frenzied high holiday season – all sugarplums, no yams. Thus, if you've got kids (or you're a child at heart), make it to one of the three performances of **Oregon Ballet Academy's All-Children's Nutcracker** at LCC this weekend. More magic, less danger – and the little ones are *so cute*. See Saturday Calendar.



14 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:40am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

DANCE Eugene Youth Ballet performs *The Nutcracker Suite*, 4pm & 5pm, Springfield Library. FREE.

GATHERINGS Caregiver support group, 9:30am, Junction City Retirement Center. FREE.

Women's Business Network meeting, "Speed Networking," 11:45am, Reserve, 984-8778. \$13 members, \$20 guests.

Silent Auction & Holiday Party, 5pm, Shelton McMurfhey Johnson House. 484-0808. \$25.

"Blind Wine Tasting: Guess the Style," 5pm, WineStyles, 2846 Willamette St. 434-9463. \$5, FREE members.

9th Annual Miracle Lights Tour of Outdoor Holiday Decorations, 6:30pm today, tomorrow, Dec. 16 and 21-23, departing from ShopKo (Eug.) and Jerry's Home Improvement (Spfd.). Register, 688-0454. \$4, \$3 youth.

Town Hall Forum w/Bill Morrisette, Phil Barnhart & Terry Beyer, 6:30pm, Springfield City Hall. FREE.

Hearing Loss Association Christmas Party & Potluck, 7pm, Hilyard Community Center. 345-3212. Bring food and white elephant gift.

LECTURES "Learn EFT for Chronic Pain Mgt.," Nina Otazo, 6:15pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

"Genocidal War in Sudan, American Involvement, and the Ties with Terrorism & Oil Interests," Jennifer Erickson, 7pm, McNail-Riley House. 683-1350. FREE.

"Sacred Seasons," Rick Ahrens, 7pm, Eugene Garden Club. 747-1504. \$2-\$10 sug. don.

"From Dysfunction to Transformation: A World for All," Sharif Abdullah, 7pm, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. 344-5740. FREE.

MUSIC Jonathan Richman, Tommy Larkins, Laura Kemp, 8pm, WOW Hall. \$12.

Marisa, 8:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

Frank Zappa Tribute, feat. Ike Willis, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+ show. \$15.

"A Celtic Holiday," music & storytelling, 9:30pm today, Dec. 18, 19, 20 & 21; 3pm tomorrow, Dec. 22 & 23, Café Soriah. 342-4410. \$10.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses the profound results from planting trees w/Andy Lipkis, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"New Dimensions" discusses "Preserving Life on Earth" w/Thomas Lovejoy, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

THEATER *A Christmas Carol* variety show, 7pm today, tomorrow & Dec. 16, Pleasant Hill Community Theatre, 35575 Zephyr Way. www.phct.org or 988-1195. \$8, \$6 sr., youth.

ACE's *A Christmas Carol*, musical version, 7:30pm today, tomorrow and Dec. 16, Actors Cabaret. 683-4368. \$14-\$17, \$30.95-\$32.95.



Adam Grosowsky sells his early works, artist's proofs and small paintings at Karin Clarke Gallery Saturday

15 FRIDAY

Sunrise 7:41am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening for "The Gift of Plein Air," work by Amy Beller, Bets Cole, Jerry Ross, 5:30pm, Jacobs Gallery. FREE.

DANCE Middle Eastern Dance Guild of Eugene, 8:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. 338-9333. \$5.

FILM *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course*, 7pm, Willamette High School auditorium. 521-4725. FREE (donations accepted).

"In-Concert" latenite: "AC/DC: The Bon Scott Years," 11:35pm today, tomorrow & Dec. 17, Bijou Art Cinemas. \$4.

GATHERINGS City Club Friday Forum: "Holiday Gifts: What Gift Would You Give to the Community, and Why?" with many guests, 11:50am, Downtown Athletic Club. www.cityclubofeugene.org \$3.

Pacifica Forum: "The R-G Anti-Hate Ad: Analysis of Content & Signers," 4pm, 125 McKenzie, UO. 344-0483. FREE.

Hannukah w/Orhagan Synagogue, feat. Rabbi Jonathan Seidel speaking on "Ending Global Warming," 6pm, Laurelwood Golf Course. 434-6551. FREE.

Holiday Vegan Potluck, 7pm, McNail-Riley House. 341-1690. Bring food, utensils, plates & white elephant gift.

Miracle Lights Tour of Outdoor Holiday Decorations continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

KIDS/FAMILIES Winter Solstice Celebration, arts, crafts, slideshow presentation, dancers, storytelling, 5pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, UO. 346-3024. \$3, \$5 family.

MUSIC Holiday Tuba Concert w/the Oregon Children's Choir & Cascade Christmas Chorus, 7pm, The Shedd. FREE (bring canned food or new toy).

Public Enemy, X-Clan, The Banned, 8pm, McDonald Theatre. \$27 adv., \$30 dos.

The Fast Computers 3rd Annual Christmas Show w/Tom Heini &

cast of thousands, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+ show. \$5.

Café Soriah's "A Celtic Holiday" continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses musical journeys w/Gypsy Soul, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

SPIRITUAL Tulku Jigme Rinpoche speaks on "Healing and Transformation," 7pm, EWEB. 606-9014. \$15 sug. don.

THEATER *The Sound of Music*, 8pm today & tomorrow; 2:30pm tomorrow & Dec. 17, Cottage Theater, Cottage Grove. 942-8001. \$19, \$17 stu., sr.

ACE's *A Christmas Carol* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

PHCT's *A Christmas Carol* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

16 SATURDAY

Sunrise 7:42am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL Adam Grosowsky's early works, artist's proofs & small paintings, benefit art sale for LCC, 1pm-3pm, Karin Clarke Gallery. 684-7963. FREE.

BENEFIT Holiday Tree & Wreath Sale to benefit FOOD for Lane County & GrassRoots Garden, 9am-5pm today, noon-5pm tomorrow, 1465 Coburg Rd. 343-2822. \$5-\$40.

DANCE Oregon Ballet Academy's All-Children's *Nutcracker*, 2pm & 7pm today, 2pm tomorrow, Performance Hall, LCC. www.oregonballetacademy.com or 338-7800. \$12, \$10 stu., child.

FILM *An Inconvenient Truth*, 5:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. FREE.

"In-Concert" continues. See Friday.

GATHERINGS Saturday Market's Holiday Market, 10am-6pm, featuring entertainment from Willagillespie School Choir, 10:30am; Carl Faddis, 11:30am; Walker T Ryan, 12:30pm; Beth Miriam Rose & Friends, 1:45pm; Olem Alves & Inner Limits, 3:15pm; Sun Bossa Sextet, 4:45pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. www.holiday-market.org FREE.

Holiday Farmers' Market, 10am-6pm today, tomorrow, Dec. 22 & 23, Lane County Fairgrounds. 431-4923. FREE.

Drums Across America for Peace, 10:30am, Old Federal Courthouse. FREE.

Holiday Portraits w/Santa & Your Pets, noon-4pm today & tomorrow, Greenhill Humane Society, 88530 Green Hill Rd. 689-1503. \$12-\$17.

Rainbow River Womyn meeting, 5pm, McMenamin's North Bank. 514-1639. FREE.

A Celebration of the Life of Beth Grafe, w/Felicidades, 6:30pm, WOW Hall. Admission is a donation of nonperishable food, blankets or clothing.

Barn Dance, 7pm, Petersen Barn Community Center. 682-5521. \$2.

Holiday Party & Piano Fundraiser, 7:30pm, Jazz Station. Don.

Miracle Lights Tour of Outdoor Holiday Decorations continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

KIDS/FAMILIES Winter Break Fun: Puzzles & Problem Solving, 10am-4pm today & tomorrow, Science Factory. 682-7888. \$4.

Holiday Gift Wrap, Ornaments & Garlands, 11am-3pm, M.E.C.C.A., 43 W. Broadway. 302-1810. \$2-\$5.

Action Night for Boys & Girls, ages 6-12, 5pm-9pm, Gymnastics Northwest. 688-8955. \$12, incl. dinner.

LITERARY ARTS "Tragedy on Denali," slides & talk by Joe Wilcox, 11am, Obsidian Lodge. www.obsidians.org or 343-8030. FREE.

Open Poetry Reading, 2pm-3:30pm, Springfield Library. 746-5581. FREE.

MUSIC Atrium Amateur Hour: "Holiday Play-in and Sing-Along," 2pm, Atrium, 10th & Olive St. 344-0483. FREE.

Craig Einhorn (CD release party), 2pm, Tamarack Wellness Center. FREE.

Eugene Symphony's Yuletide Celebration, 3pm & 8pm, Hult Center. \$18-\$43.

Spiritfarm, 8pm, Tsunami Books. \$10. "A Celtic Holiday," music & storytelling, 8pm today, 2pm tomorrow, Lord Leebrick Theatre. 465-1506. \$10.

Calango, 9pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5. Jesse Marquez & Mike Denny Quartet, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+ show. \$5.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Obsidians trips: Fawn Lake, X-Ski, 7 miles; Marilyn-Gold Lakes, S'Shoe, 5 miles. See YMCA board for details.

GEARs rides: McKenzie View via Deerhorn, 73 miles, 10am, Alton Baker Park. www.eugenegears.org

THEATER FACTheater presents *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*, 2pm today & tomorrow, ACE's FACTheater, 39 W. 10th Ave. 683-4368. \$10, \$8 children.

ACE's *A Christmas Carol* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

PHCT's *A Christmas Carol* continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

The Sound of Music continues. See Friday.

17 SUNDAY

Sunrise 7:42am; Sunset 4:35pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

BENEFIT Holiday Tree & Wreath Sale continues. See Saturday.

DANCE All-Children's *Nutcracker* continues. See Saturday.

FILM "In-Concert" continues. See Friday.

GATHERINGS Saturday Market's Holiday Market, 10am-6pm, featuring entertainment from Rob Tobias, 10:30am; Chico Schwall & Linda Danielson, 11:30am; Red Pajamas, 12:30pm; Eagle Park Slim, 1:45pm; Paul & Nancy's Love Truffle, 3:15pm; Los Lonely Shots, 4:45pm, Lane County Fairgrounds. www.holidaymarket.org FREE.

Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market, 10am-4pm, Expo Hall, Lane County Fairgrounds. 683-5589. \$1.50.

Free People, free music, food, clothing, fellowship, 11am-3pm, WOW Hall. FREE.

Holiday Farmers' Market continues. See Saturday.

Holiday Portraits w/Santa & Your Pets continues. See Saturday.

KIDS/FAMILIES Winter Break Fun: Puzzles & Problem Solving continues. See Saturday.

MUSIC Blue Skies Big Band, Jewel Tones, 2pm, Eugene Hilton. 343-9882. \$7, \$5 stu., sr.

Las Posadas, choral sung in Spanish & English, 5pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. 686-8462. FREE.

Eugene Sacred Harp Singers Christmas Concert, 7pm, First United Methodist Church. Don.

Sam Marshall, Charlotte Thistle, 7pm, Cozmic Pizza. Don.

Lord Leebrick's "Celtic Holiday" continues. See Saturday.

ON THE AIR "Sentinel Radio" discusses "Primitive Christian Healing: As Vital & Effective as Ever," 7am, KPNW 1120 AM.

"The Son of Saturday Gold" presents "Rockin' Stockin'," 11am, KRVM 91.9 FM.

"UO Today" features John Shelby Spong, retired Episcopal bishop, 7:30pm today & 8pm W on Ch. 23; noon M, 11:30 pm Tu & 11:30am W on Ch. 29.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Ski bus to Willamette Pass, departs 7am at River House, 301 N. Adams, returns 6:30pm. Register, www.eugene.or.gov/rec or 682-5329. \$10.

Snowshoe/X-Ski Diamond Peak Wilderness w/Native Forest Council & Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates, carpool leaves Growers' Market at 10am. RSVP, 688-2600. Don.

GEARs rides: Meadowview, 35 miles, 10am, Alton Baker Park. www.eugenegears.org

SPIRITUAL Mystical Chant, 7pm, Unity of the Valley. Don.

THEATER *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* continues. See Saturday.

The Sound of Music continues. See Friday.



Perennial favorites
The Devil Makes
Three play Sam
Bond's Wednesday

calendar

18 MONDAY

Sunrise: 7:43am; Sunset 4:36pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

GATHERING PFLAG meeting & potluck, 6:45pm, First Congregational Church. 302-4422. FREE.

Youth Open Mic, 7pm, Cozmic Pizza. FREE.

MUSIC Café Soriah's "A Celtic Holiday" continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses the potential benefits and environmental concerns of liquefied natural gas terminals in Oregon w/Larry Larsen and Rory Cox, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

19 TUESDAY

Sunrise 7:44am; Sunset 4:36pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

GATHERING Wine tasting: "Wines from Down Under," 5pm, WineStyles, 2846 Willamette St. 434-9463. \$5, FREE members.

Town Hall Forum w/Phil Barnhart, 6:30pm, Creswell Community Center. FREE.

Acoustic Open Mic, 7pm, Cozmic Pizza. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILIES Games Around the World, 11am Sheldon Library; 2pm Downtown Library; 2pm tomorrow Bethel Library. FREE.

MUSIC Café Soriah's "A Celtic Holiday" continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

ON THE AIR "Alternative Radio" features "Neoliberalism & India's Farm Crisis" w/P. Sainath, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

"The Jefferson Exchange" features Celtic Christmas storytelling & music w/Tomaseen Foley & Ellis Kennedy, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

SPIRITUAL Chanukah Celebration, music & refreshments, 6:30pm, Ahavas Torah Congregation, 3800 Ferry St. 334-6772. FREE.

4 Agreements Wisdom Circle, 7:30pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. 461-1977. FREE.

20 WEDNESDAY

Sunrise 7:44am; Sunset 4:37pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

BENEFIT Solstice Yoga & Vegetarian Potluck, benefit for FOOD for Lane County, 5pm, 3635 Hilyard St. \$7, \$6 stu., sr.

FILM Best of the Eugene Film Festival (animation program), 7pm, DIVA. \$5, \$3 stu.

LITERARY ARTS Classics Book Group: *Candide* by Voltaire, 7pm, Barnes & Noble. FREE.



A Victorian Christmas with John Doan at Florence Events Center Saturday. See On the Road listings

KIDS/FAMILIES Winter Break Fun: Chemical Concoctions, 10am-4pm today & tomorrow, Science Factory. 682-7888. \$4.

Games Around the World continues. See Tuesday.

LITERARY ARTS Teen Book Club: *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry, 4pm, Downtown Library. 682-5450. FREE.

MUSIC The Devil Makes Three, Trainwrecks, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+ show. \$7.

Café Soriah's "A Celtic Holiday" continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses children and families suffering from neglect and abuse w/Mary-Curtis Gramley, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

21 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:45am; Sunset 4:37pm
Av High 45; Av Low 33

DANCE Eugene Ballet Company presents *The Nutcracker*, 7pm today (recorded music); 8pm tomorrow & Dec. 23; 2:30pm Dec. 23 & 24, Hult Center. \$18-\$42; \$12-\$27 today only.

GATHERINGS Wine tasting: "Wines for a Long Winter's Nap," 5pm, WineStyles, 2846 Willamette St. 434-9463. \$5, FREE members.

"Bridging the Gap" support group, 7pm, Willamette Christian Center. FREE.

Hannukah/Winter Solstice Celebration, 7pm, Washington Park Clubhouse, 2025 Washington St. \$5, \$10 family.

Miracle Lights Tour of Outdoor Holiday Decorations continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

KIDS/FAMILIES Winter Break Fun: Chemical Concoctions continues. See Wednesday.

LITERARY ARTS Orhagan Synagogue Winter Solstice Nature Readings, 5:30pm, Mount Pisgah Arboretum. 747-1504. \$2 sug. don.

Sheldon Book Group: *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich, 6pm, Sheldon Library. FREE.

MUSIC 8th Annual Winter Solstice Goddess Celebration,

8pm, WOW Hall. www.eugenewintersolstice.com or 463-0943. \$5-\$13, \$2 youth, FREE under 8.

Grand Street, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+ show. \$5.

Café Soriah's "A Celtic Holiday" continues. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" looks at pagan traditions and how some ancient ceremonies have survived w/Aylah Hallel, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"New Dimensions" discusses "Of Animal Grace and A Spa For A Pig" w/Sy Montgomery, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

CORVALLIS events

THURSDAY, DEC. 14 Wine tasting, appetizers & music, 4pm, First Alternative Co-op South Store. FREE.

Christmas Storybook Land, 6:30pm-8:30pm M-F, 10am-8:30pm Sa & Su, through Dec. 17, Linn Co. Fair & Expo Center, Albany. 928-1612. FREE.

The Homecoming, 8pm today, tomorrow and Dec. 16, Albany Civic Theater. www.albanycivic.org \$7-\$10.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15 6th Annual Holiday Market Place, 10am-6pm F & Sa, through Dec. 22, MU, OSU, Corvallis. www.osumu.org or 737-2937. FREE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 Willamette Valley Concert Band Christmas Concert, 2pm, United Presbyterian Church, Albany. www.wvcb.info

Heart of the Valley Children's Choir Holiday Concert, 3pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. www.hvccchoir.com \$7, \$4 stu., sr.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 Eugene Ballet Company presents *The Nutcracker*, 7:30pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. \$20-\$30.

ON THE ROAD

Note- Continuation dates for out-of-town events are listed under the first day of the event.

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Heart of the Valley Children's Choir performs at the LaSells Stewart Center Saturday. See Corvallis listings

calendar

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker amaze at the **Elsinore Theatre in Salem** **Thursday, Dec. 21.** See On the Road listings



THURSDAY, DEC. 14 Live Wire! variety show, 7pm, Aladdin Theater, PDX. \$12.

BodyVox's Lasting Impressions 5, 7:30pm today, tomorrow and

Dec. 16, BodyVox Studio, PDX. www.bodyvox.com or 503-229-0627. \$30, \$24 stu., sr.

My Own Private Improv at the Clinton, 9pm, Clinton St. Theater, PDX. \$6.

Hot One, The Sun The Sea, School of Rock, 9pm, Doug Fir Lounge, PDX. 21+ show. \$8.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15 The Dandy Warhols present "A Live Meeting of Bigger Geezers," 9pm, Wonder Ballroom, PDX. \$20 adv., \$22 dos.

The J.J. Kasner Band, 9pm, Landmark Lounge, Yachats. FREE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 Big Island Shindig, 9pm, Landmark Lounge, Yachats. FREE.

Wine tasting: Lorelli Wines, 1pm-4pm, The Wine Place, Yachats. FREE.

11th Annual Victorian Christmas, 3pm-7pm today & tomorrow, Heceta Head Lightstation, Yachats.

Winter Solstice Celebration, feat. The Elizabeth Cable Band & Pieces of Eight, 6:30pm, Yachats Commons. \$10 sug. don.

A Victorian Christmas w/John

Doan, 7pm, Florence Events Center. 997-1994. \$15, \$10 youth.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 Quaker Gun, A.M. Interstate, Eskimo & Sons, 8:30pm, McMenamins White Eagle Saloon, PDX. 21+ show. FREE.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21 Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, 7:30pm today & tomorrow; 2pm Dec. 23, Elsinore Theatre, Salem. www.nutcracker.com

ATTN: OPPORTUNITIES

Eugene Weekly seeks your personal stories in response to the questions: "How and why did you move to the Eugene area?" and/or "Why are you still here?"

Limit submissions to 300 words. Email your text to cal@eugeneweekly.com and include "personal story" in the subject line. Deadline is Dec. 20.

"Coats for Cubs!" Donate your real fur apparel - including trims, hats, gloves, muffs and shearling - to your local Buffalo Exchange now through April 22. Furs will be used as bedding for orphaned & injured wildlife. Furfree@hsus.org or 687-2805.

Registration open for two film and video workshops for January at DIVA, entitled "Making the Extremely Low Budget Film" and "Sound Design for Independent Films and Video." www.divanow.org or 344-3482.



Tuba tuba twoooo! See the Holiday Tuba Concert at the Shedd Friday

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Recent computer art by Dan Hitchcock,
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art in the galleries

All exhibits free unless otherwise noted.

OPENING

Jacobs Gallery "The Gift of Plein Air," work by Amy Beller, Bets Cole, Jerry Ross, through Jan. 27. An opening is 5:30pm Friday. Noon-4pm Tu-F; 11am-3pm Sa. Hult Center. 684-5635.

CONTINUING

Art-Exiled Original work by refugee artists, currently specializing in work by Burmese refugees, ongoing. By appointment only. 1973 Pierce St. artexiled@gmail.com or 485-1133. www.art-exiled.org

Barnes and Noble National Alliance on Mental Health Collection, through Dec. 31. 9am-10pm daily. 1163 Valley River Center.

Beanery "A Benefit Show for Peace," paintings by Patricia Wong Hall, through Dec. 31. 6am-11pm M-Sa; 7am-11pm Su. 152 W. 5th St.

Brewed Awakening Photography by Emerald Photographic Society members, through Dec. 28. 6am-8pm M-F. 2532 Willakenzie Rd.

Café Soriah Etchings & mixed media by Tallmadge Doyle, through Jan. 15. 11am-2pm M-F; 5pm-10pm Su-Th; 5pm-11pm F-Sa. 384 W. 13th Ave.

Campbell House Paintings by Debra Wade, through Dec. 31. 8am-5pm daily. 232 E. Pearl St. 683-4353.

City Hall Art Gallery "The Commission's Show," group exhibition, through Dec. 31. 8am-8pm M & Tu; 8am-5pm W-F; noon-5pm Sa. Springfield City Hall, 225 5th St. 726-2237.

Cortesia Sanctuary Gallery Mystical nature photography and watercolors by Tricia Clark-McDowell, ongoing. By appointment. 84540 McBeth Rd. 343-9544.

David Joyce Gallery "Time & Place," work by Satoko Motouji, through Apr. 13. 8am-5pm M-F. Building 19, Lane Community College. 463-3500.

DIVA "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise," art show & memorial, through Dec. 31. "Elements," Oregon fiber artist exhibition; "Figured State(d) Figure," by C. DeLaittre; "Inherent Patterns: Flora, Architecture, Landscape," by Paul Shirkey and "Mysterium Cosmographicum," by Tallmadge Doyle, through Dec. 22. "Phantasms," by Judith M. Sander, through Dec. 30. Noon-6pm Tu-Sa; noon-9 pm First Fridays. 110 W. Broadway Ave.

Diablo's Downtown Lounge Work by Dan Hitchcock, through Dec. 31. 11am-2am M-F; 1pm-2am Sa-Su. 959 Pearl St.

Eccentricities Zimbabwean tapestries by various artists, ongoing. 1pm-6pm W & by appointment. 2368 Agate St. 484-1490.

Emerald Art Center "Variety of Light," paintings by Tom Browning; EAC member artists Gladys Bacon-Rust, Elva Carter & Deanne Tiffany, through Dec. 30. "The Way We See," work by Springfield youth, through Feb. 6. 11am-4pm Tu-Sa. 500 Main Street, Spfd. 726-8595.

Fenario Gallery Work by Tsuguya Agata, through Jan. 5. Noon-6pm Tu-Sa. 881 Willamette St.

Florence Events Center Galleries "Celebrate Arts 2006" juried exhibit, through Dec. 31. 9am-5pm M-F and by appointment and during events. 715 Quince St., Florence.

Gallery Gazelle Work by Pam Hough, Harold Loftin, Connie Williams, through Jan. 1. Noon-6pm M-F; 10am-4pm Sa & Su. 1132 Main St., Philomath.

Health Information Library, PeaceHealth Medical Group Annex Quilt works by Lorelie Cesario & Jeani Williams, through Dec. 31. 9am-4:30pm M-Th; 9am-1pm F. 1202 Willamette.

Hinman Vineyards Work by Richard Quigley, ongoing. Noon-5pm daily. 27012 Briggs Hill Rd. 345-1945.

Horsehead Bar "Erotique," photography by Rowan Watson, through Dec. 31. 11:30am-2:30am daily. 99 W. Broadway St.

Imagine Jewelry by Mana Designs; ceramics & pottery by Josh Mazet; plus six other local artisans, through Dec. 31. 10am-8pm M-Sa; 10am-6pm Su. 296 E. 5th.

Island Park Art Gallery Works by Guenther Fuernsteiner, Ellen Gabehart, Dotty Light, Sandra Miles & Gloria Tinker, through Jan. 18. Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St., Spfd.

The Jawbreaker "Gay for Love," work by Halo Jones, through Dec. 31. 24-hour viewing. 4th and Monroe St.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art "Coming Into View," traveling jewelry exhibition, through Feb. 18. "A Way With Words: The Calligraphic Art of Jung Do-jun," through Jan. 14. "Shipwreck," photographs by Dan Powell, through Jan. 21. "Faux or For Real: The Art of Researching Art," through Feb. 4. 11am-5pm Th-Su; 11am-8pm W. 346-3129. \$5, \$3 stu.

Karin Clarke Gallery Recent paintings by Adam Grosowsky & Vera Grosowsky, through Dec. 30. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 760 Willamette St. 684-7963.

Kellenberger Library Collection of 1st edition journals from Captain Cook's explorations of the Oregon Coast, ongoing. 8am-9:30pm M-Th; 8am-5pm F. Northwest Christian College. 684-7237.

La Follette Gallery Paintings by Steve Karras, through Jan. 31. 10am-6pm M-F; 10am-5pm Sa. 931 Oak St.

Lane County Historical Museum Smithsonian Institution's "What Style Is It? A Survey of American Architecture," ongoing. 10am-4pm Tu-Sa. 740 W. 13th Ave. \$2.

Law School Gallery "Faces and Faraway Places," photography by Kristin Loya, through Dec. 31. 7:30am-9am M-F; 9am-9pm Sa & Su. 2nd Floor, 1515 Agate St.

LumpWEST Project Space "Good & Thuggy" installation curated by Team Lump, through Dec. 16. 1pm-5pm Sat. or by appt. at lumpwest@yahoo.com 2493 Harris St.

Maude Kerns Art Center "Art for All Seasons Membership Show"; Club Mud Ceramics Holiday Sale, through Dec. 17. 10am-5pm MF; Noon-4pm Sa. 1910 E. 15th Ave. \$3 sug. don.

Monroe Street Café "Metapop," work by Cheryl L. Campbell, through Dec. 31. 7am-11pm daily. 1193 Monroe St. 683-2801.

Moreland Gallery "Rambling of an Amateur Artist (A Retrospective)," work by Charles M. Leach, through Dec. 30. 10am-4:30pm Tu-Sa. Benton County Historical Museum, 1101 Main St., Philomath.

Museum of Modern Malabon Art Student artwork, grades K-5, ongoing. 8:15am-2:15pm M-F. Malabon Elementary School, 1380 Taney St.

Museum of Natural and Cultural History "Arctic Visions: Glimpses from Ancient & Modern Alaska," through Jan. 21. "Northern Lights: Luminous Emissaries from the Arctic Skies," astrophotography by John Flinn, through Feb. 25. 11am-5pm Tu-Su. 1680 E. 15th Ave. \$3, \$2 youths, sr.

New Zone Art Collective "One Hundred Dollars and Under Show," group exhibit, through Jan. 2. 164 W. Broadway.

Opus6ix "The Best of Oregon Crafted," group exhibit, through Dec. 30. "Hand Knotted Rugs," through Dec. 30. 10am-6pm Tu-Th & Sa; 10am-8pm F; 11am-4pm Su. 22 West 7th Ave.

Park Street Café Work by David Thompson, Sahadev, through Dec. 31. 8am-3pm M-F, 9am-3:30pm Sa. 776 W. Park St.

Springfield Museum Antique toys & dolls, through Jan. 6. 10am-5pm Tu-F; noon-4pm Sa. 590 Main St., Spfd. \$2.

Tevina Gallery "Criminals Take a Life's Toll," work by Ruth Vu, through Jan. 22. 5pm-7pm Th & F. 228 Main St., Spfd.

White Lotus Gallery Work by Eric Petersen, Chang-Ae Song, Her Xue-Sheng, Miao Hui-Xin; jewelry by Suzanne Linquist & Christine Sundt; stencil dyeing by Karen Miller, through Dec. 23. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 767 Willamette. 345-3276.

WineStyles Paintings by Georgia Williams & photography by James Rodberg, through Dec. 31. noon-6pm M-F. 291 W. 8th Ave.

WOW Hall "Severed Connections," work by Emily Catherine Kaufman, through Dec. 31. noon-6pm M-F. 291 W. 8th Ave.

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 5:10, 7:25 & 9:35 Nightly
 Sun Mat 2:55
 soon: JONESTOWN **[R]**

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PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS PG13
 10:20, 1:20, 4:15, 7:40, 10:40

ERAGON PG
 10:15, 11:25, 12:50, 2:00, 3:30, 4:35, 7:15, 7:50, 9:50, 10:25

CHARLOTTE'S WEB G
 10:55, 11:40, 1:30, 2:15, 4:05, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 9:50, 10:15

APOLCALYPTO R
 12:10, 3:25, 7:10, 10:25

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS PG
 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50*EXCEPT SAT 12/16, 10:40

BLOOD DIAMOND R
 12:25, 3:45, 7:00, 10:20

HOLIDAY PG13
 12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15

NATIVITY STORY PG
 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30

DÉJÀ VU PG13
 10:45, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

CASINO ROYALE DIGITAL PG13
 11:10, 2:30, 7:20, 10:45

CASINO ROYALE PG13
 12:20, 3:40, 7:05, 10:20

DECK THE HALLS PG
 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45

THE FOUNTAIN PG13
 10:00 PM

HAPPY FEET PG
 10:10, 10:40, 12:55, 1:25, 3:50, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

STRANGER THAN FICTION PG13
 6:55, 9:35

SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE G
 11:05, 1:50, 4:25, 7:25

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 11:50, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13
 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

OPEN SEASON PG
 11:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:00, 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:30, 9:20, 9:55

BORAT R
 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05

FLYBOYS PG13
 12:00, 3:05, 6:55, 10:15

THE GUARDIAN PG13
 12:10, 3:15, 6:50, 9:50

SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS PG13
 11:25, 4:40, 9:30

THE ILLUSIONIST PG13
 2:35, 7:35

MAN OF THE YEAR PG13
 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

FLICKA PG
 2:10, 7:05

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MANS CHEST PG13
 11:15, 2:30, 6:45, 10:00

TALLADEGA NIGHTS PG13
 11:45, 5:05, 10:10

BARNYARD PG
 11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

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Luis Guzmán in
Fast Food Nation

Food for Thought

Richard Linklater takes aim at the business of beef

FAST FOOD NATION: Directed by Richard Linklater. Written by Eric Schlosser and Richard Linklater. Cinematography, Lee Daniel. Music, Friends of Dean Martinez. Starring Patricia Arquette, Bobby Cannavale, Paul Dano, Luis Guzmán, Ethan Hawke, Greg Kinnear, Kris Kristofferson, Esai Morales, Wilmer Valderrama and Bruce Willis. Fox Searchlight, 2006. R. 116 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

There's a conflict at the heart of *Fast Food Nation*, the new film inspired by the Eric Schlosser book, and it isn't about whether you want fries with your order. Directed by Richard Linklater, who in recent years has been moving away from the slacker-type films that made him famous — *Dazed and Confused* and, well, *Slacker* among them — *Fast Food Nation*

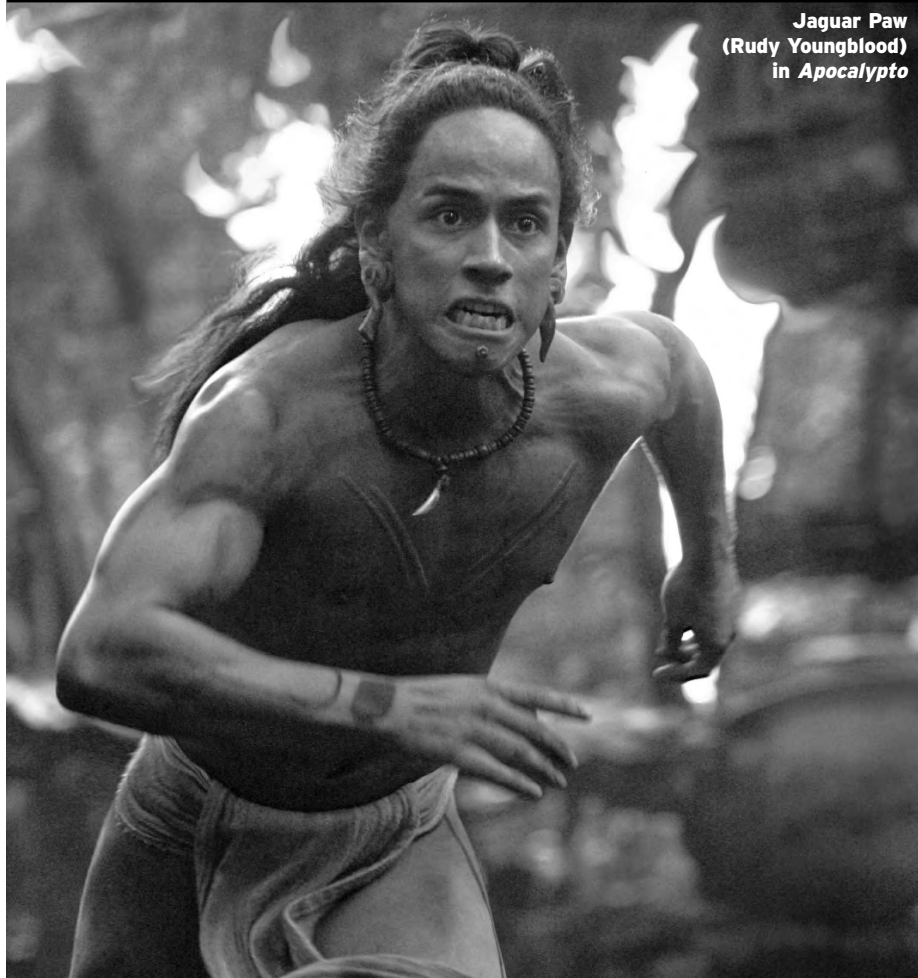
There's nothing subtle or complicated about Linklater's view of the meat industrial complex

wants to melt your heart while raising your blood pressure at the same time. Never the most nimble of directors, Linklater has stuffed a surefire story of corporate corruption into a larger, melodramatic narrative of Mexican immigrants working at a meat processing plant. The result is a dull compromise between a soap opera and Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*.

In terms of defining moments — those critical early scenes when a film establishes, more or less, how it intends to reveal itself — I'd direct your attention to a pair of events very early in the film. In one sequence, a kind and handsome Mexican youth dies during an illegal border crossing (despite only spending a few hours alone, it seems). But he doesn't just die; he swoons and re-swoons, shirtless in the summer heat. In the other scene, Don Anderson (Greg Kinnear), a marketing executive at a national fast-food chain, asks why he's being sent to Colorado to inspect

Johnson) and Brian (Paul Dano). Despite an ensemble cast that also includes Bruce Willis and Bobby Cannavale, *Fast Food Nation* merely tinkers with a moral crisis for Don, while life at the meat plant is one heartbreak after another.

Fast Food Nation means well; it just doesn't always work well. To Linklater, there's a straight, unbroken line from E. coli-laced beef to the plight of illegal immigrants: The one can't survive without the other. While that may be true, there's nothing subtle or complicated about Linklater's view of the meat industrial complex. The people in power abuse power in *Fast Food Nation*, while the little guys are saints. Those are the rules, and they rarely get broken, which makes this endeavor less interesting than it should have been. The whole effort is infused with an us vs. them mentality that I found boring and careless. There's shit in the meat, sure. But that's not the only place you'll find it. **EW**



Jaguar Paw
(Rudy Youngblood)
in *Apocalypto*

Decline and Fall

Gibson's obsession with bloody mayhem

APOCALYPTO: Directed by Mel Gibson. Written by Gibson and Farhad Safinia. Cinematography, Deam Semler. Music, James Horner. Starring Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Raoul Trujillo, Gerardo Taracena and Mayra Serbulo. Touchstone Pictures, 2006. R. 139 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

At the small, speedily beating heart of *Apocalypto* is a story about a guy who just wants to get back to his wife. It's a familiar hero's journey, but in the strange vision of director Mel Gibson, it's story steeped in blood and gore, a tale set at what seems to be the end of the Mayan Empire, imagined as a fantasyland of violence. It's not the human sacrifices, the stabbings and the throat-slitting that are the problem; it's the carefully rendered way they appear on screen, more vital to the story than character or dialogue.

Apocalypto opens with a quote from historian Will Durant: "A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within." This portentous snippet begs the question of what, precisely, Gibson is getting at. Are we the bloodthirsty Mayans, our leaders so corrupt that another culture will shortly run rampant over our excessive ways? Or do the countries that we invade deserve their downfalls, since they let it happen? Either way, it's a lot of moral heft for what is essentially a rather typical, if extremely bloody, action adventure film.

After a scene-setting tapir kill and subsequent feast, *Apocalypto*'s hero, Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), awakens to find his peaceful village under attack. With his friends and neighbors, J.P. is dragged off to a great city where innocent villagers are sold as slaves or sacrificed atop a towering

pyramid. The city itself is the most tantalizing character in *Apocalypto*: Teeming, dirty, ever-growing, it is a place where the wondrous and the terrible coexist on every corner. An ominous eclipse (unnecessarily prophesied by a plague-stricken child) saves J.P. from the sacrificial knife, but he'll have to evade more knives — and snakes, jaguars, arrows, clubs and spears — before his journey ends. A cliché-ridden jungle chase seems to go on for much of the second half of the movie, and by the time Jaguar Paw dives from a waterfall and emerges unscathed from the pool below, the sequence's initial tension has been swapped for cinematic ridiculousness of an almost Bruckheimer/Bay degree.

Youngblood, like most of the film's hitherto unknown actors, fully embodies his role, spending little time messing about with dialogue but saying everything necessary with a panicked turn of his head. But he's little more than the outline of a Good Guy, running through the (lushly filmed and undeniably deadly) jungle from the Bad Guys, the lot of them about to face something wholly alien.

The end of a civilization's dominion is a scenario rich with possibility, with the what-ifs and might-have-beens of different paths and the imagined lives of people whose existences were so drastically different from our own. But Gibson's self-described "chase film" is interested in none of this beyond a cursory look at the struggle between empire and independence. As far as he sprints, Jaguar Paw can't outdistance the looming future; as long as Gibson's film runs, it can't get out from under the director's continued fascination with the indignities man visits on man.

EW

OPENING OR RETURNING: **AC/DC: The Bon Scott Years:** A collection of live performances from the late 1970s featuring original singer Bon Scott. Not rated. Bijou LateNite.

Best of the Eugene Film Festival: Part of a continuing series, this time focusing on outstanding animated work from the festival as well as a few previously unscreened submissions. 7 pm Dec. 20, DIVA. \$5, \$3 stu.

Charlotte's Web: Dakota Fanning plays Fern, the little girl who loves her pig Wilbur (voice of Dominic Scott Kay) more than anything. Julia Roberts voices Charlotte the spider, who helps Wilbur escape his fate. G. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Employee of the Month: Dane Cook and Dax Shepard are two slacker clerks working to become the employee of the month in hopes of getting in Jessica Simpson's pants. Ah, cinematic brilliance. PG-13. Movies 12.

Eragon: Adaptation of young novelist Christopher Paolini's first thick tome stars John Malkovich as an apparently campy evil king. Newcomer Edward Speelers plays the title character, who bonds with a dragon named Saphira and, um, saves the world? Or at least the kingdom. Just a guess. PG-13. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Fast Food Nation: Richard Linklater's second film this year (following *A Scanner Darkly*) turns Eric Schlosser's bestselling book into a story about immigration and the fast food industry. R. Bijou.

Open Season: Sony breaks into the animation game with the story of a clueless grizzly bear (Martin Lawrence) whose friend Elliot (Ashton Kutcher) lures him into the wild life. PG. Movies 12.

Pursuit of Happyness, The: Will Smith stars as a down-on-his-luck father who strives to make it as a stockbroker while facing eviction and raising his son (Smith's real-life son Jaden). PG-13. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Rocky Balboa: Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) returns for what's supposed to be the last Rocky film. When a computer simulation shows that the young Rocky would likely have taken down the current champion, the aging Rocky agrees to an exhibition bout. PG. Opens Dec. 20 at CinemaMark.

Shortbus: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* star John Cameron Mitchell directs a cast of young, pretty, sexually troubled (and adventurous) New Yorkers who connect at an underground club called Shortbus. Explicit, warm, funny and refreshingly sex-positive. Not rated. Bijou LateNite.

We Are Marshall: Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox (*Lost*) play two coaches trying to revive the Marshall College football team following a horrifying crash that killed most of the previous team and staff. Oddly, this based-on-a-true-story flick is directed by McG (*Charlie's Angels*). PG. Sneak preview at 7:30 pm Dec. 16 at CinemaMark.

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

CONTINUING:

Apocalypto: Mel Gibson follows *The Passion of the Christ* with another violent epic set in an

ancient time (something that looks vaguely like the end of the Mayan Empire) and filmed in an unusual language. R. Cinema World. CinemaMark. **See review this issue.**

Barnyard: When the farmer's away, the cows will ... order pizzas and throw a party? Don't think too much about this animated feature or you might begin to wonder why Otis (Kevin James) has udders. PG. Movies 12.

Blood Diamond: Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou and Jennifer Connelly star in Edward Zwick's (*Glory*) film about diamond mining in Sierra Leone in the 1990s. R. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Borat: Sacha Baron Cohen (of "Da Ali G Show") plays the title character, a Kazakhstani reporter creating a documentary while road-tripping across the U.S. The subtitle, "Cultural Learnings of American for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," ought to tell you something. R. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (11/9)

Casino Royale: Bond gets blond as Daniel Craig (*Munich*, *Infamous*) steps into the role in a rebooting of the whole franchise, turning it into something darker and, well, better. With Judi Dench and Eva Green. PG-13. Cinema World. CinemaMark (also showing in digital). ★★☆☆☆ (11/22)

Deck the Halls: Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito face off when DeVito's character decides to build the world's biggest holiday light display. With Kristin Davis, Kristin Chenoweth and Alia Shawkat. PG. CinemaMark.

Déja Vu: As far as we can tell, this Jerry Bruckheimer-produced, Tony Scott-directed thriller has something to do with traveling four days back in the future to stop a boat exploding. Or maybe it's just *looking* four days back. Clever preview, either way. Stars Denzel Washington and Val Kilmer. PG-13. CinemaMark.

Flicka: The remarkably ageless Alison Lohman (*Matchstick Men*) once again plays a teen, this time one who would rather work on her father's ranch (and work with wild mustang Flicka) than go to college. PG. Movies 12.

Flyboys: James Franco (*Spiderman*, "Freaks and Geeks") heads up a cast of chiseled young men playing the Lafayette Escadrille, a group of American pilots who flew for the French during WWI. PG-13. Movies 12.

Fountain, The: Fearless director Darron Aronofsky (*Pi*, *Requiem for a Dream*) spent years making this ambitious film, which follows characters in different times periods, all played by Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz, all on difficult quests. PG-13. CinemaMark.

★☆☆☆☆ (11/30)

Guardian, The: A hotshot young Coast Guard rescue swimmer (Ashton Kutcher) learns how to be a real hero from a retired swimmer who lost his team in an accident (Kevin Costner). PG-13. Movies 12.

Happy Feet: Warner Bros. chases some *March of the Penguins* dough with this animated film, starring Elijah Wood as a cute lil' guy in search of his soul mate. (OK, so they were working on this one first. Still.) With Robin Williams, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman. PG. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Holiday, The: Man-troubled Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet

swap houses for Christmas break in the new film from Nancy Meyers (*Something's Gotta Give*) — and naturally, each finds a new feller (Jude Law and Jack Black) on the other's home turf. PG-13. Cinema World. CinemaMark.

Illusionist, The: In the first of the year's two magician movies, Edward Norton plays a Venetian stage magician caught up with an old love (Jessica Biel), a dogged inspector (Paul Giamatti) and a crown prince (Rufus Sewell). PG-13. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (9/7)

Man of the Year: Supposedly, Robin Williams' unlikely president in this film, a satirical comedian who ran as a joke, is partly based on Jon Stewart. Which is odd, because the previews aren't nearly as funny as *The Daily Show*. With Christopher Walken and Lewis Black. PG-13. Movies 12.

Nativity Story, The: Catherine Hardwicke (*Thirteen*) directs *Whale Rider*'s Keisha Castle-Hughes as Mary in the Biblical story of Jesus' birth. With Shohreh Aghdashloo and Ciarán Hinds. PG. CinemaMark.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead

Man's Chest: Johnny Depp reprises his role as over-the-top swashbuckler Jack Sparrow in the second *Pirates* film. Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley are the in-love eye candy, with Bill Nighy all betentacled as watery bad guy Davy Jones. PG-13. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (7/13)

Queen, The: Stephen Frears' movie about the shifting desires and threats of Britain's public and the differences in Tony Blair's (Michael Sheen) and Queen Elizabeth II's (Helen Mirren) responses to the death of Princess Diana is a grand, usually subtle fiction that gets at a lot of truth. PG-13. Bijou. ★★☆☆☆ (11/30)

Santa Clause 3, The: Santa (Tim Allen) faces off against Jack Frost (Martin Short), who's trying to take over Christmas. G. CinemaMark.

School for Scoundrels: NYC meter "maid" Roger (Jon Heder) takes a confidence-building class led by Dr. P (Billy Bob Thornton). The surer of himself Roger becomes, the more competitive his instructor gets. PG-13. Movies 12.

Stranger Than Fiction: Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) begins to hear a voice (Emma Thompson) narrating his life — and he doesn't like where the story's going. Marc Forster's (*Finding Neverland*) new film has a stellar cast and an intriguing premise. PG-13. CinemaMark. ★★☆☆☆ (11/16)

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby: Will Ferrell and NASCAR. What more do you need to know? OK, well, Ricky Bobby (Ferrell) and his racing partner face a new challenge when a French Formula One driver (Sacha Baron Cohen) arrives on the scene. PG-13. Movies 12.

★☆☆☆☆ (8/10)
Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny: Tenacious D (Jack Black and Kyle Gass) head off on a musical adventure obtain the Pick of Destiny and thereby become the Greatest Band on Earth. It's a biopic! Sorta. R. Movies 12.

Unaccompanied Minors: A host of kids (traveling alone) find themselves snowed in at the airport (a fictional one in Chicago) on Christmas Eve. What else is there to do but wreak havoc? PG. CinemaMark.



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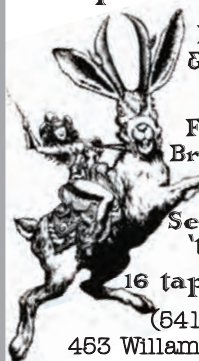
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BY ADRIENNE VAN DER VALK



Friday Night Hype

Public Enemy brings two decades of rap greatness to the McDonald Theatre

I spent about ten minutes thinking I was all that when Chuck D's publicist called me with his contact number. Then ... he answered the phone. Suddenly my coolness quotient plummeted. I don't remember exactly what I said, but it was something about as hip as "Gee whiz, Chuck, I sure do enjoy that rap music you play!" As you might imagine, the famously well-spoken Mr. Chuck D took my blundering, white-bread idiocy in stride.

Even those uninitiated in the

politics, media and urban life. Their live show still showcases some of the music that made them famous ("Fight the Power," "Bring the Noise"), but Chuck D assures audiences they won't be seeing a greatest hits act.

"Our show is a combination of The Roots, Rage Against the Machine and Run DMC," he explains. "People try to condense us, knock us down to something they can put in their cell phone, [but] we're the closest thing to a jam band that rap can get."

**PUBLIC ENEMY,
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'We're the closest thing to a jam band that rap can get.'

- CHUCK D

world of rap and hip hop know Public Enemy's performance at the McDonald Theatre is a big deal. PE's larger-than-life legacy is built on 20 years of critical acclaim, controversy, legendary performances and now-classic albums like *Fear of a Black Planet* and *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*.

But words like "seminal" and "ground-breaking" are dime-a-dozen in any description of Public Enemy's hip hop empire. Yes, they're probably the most influential rap group of all time, but reharsing their past minimizes the fact that, unlike other generation-spanning acts, PE doesn't rely on the glory of their early success. Being ridiculously famous is great, but making great music is better. Public Enemy released two original albums in the last year, and Chuck D's online record company, Slam Jamz, is successfully tapping into the world of downloading as the primary forum for musical exchange. At this point, PE can do whatever they want. And what they want is to be on the road.

"We don't tour to promote a record," Chuck tells me. "We tour to tour and we release a record to release a record." Their appearance at the McDonald is a stop on the 56th tour made together by original members Chuck D, Flavor Flav and Professor Griff.

Public Enemy is best known for scathing social commentary and revolutionary musical style. Their characteristic sound launched a rap revolution, shaping a genre that layered the beats of heavy handed DJs with aggressive yet nuanced lyrical commentary on race,

While undeniably an icon, Chuck D is very much an active artist and producer, aware of and disturbed by modern trends in the rap scene.

"Not everything can be a pop song," he muses. "Saying the same thing and being limited on stage just causes diminishing returns on the genre. Cars, girls and love ... they're never going to go away. But rap music can mean more than that, more than always talking about going platinum. Dog food goes platinum every two weeks. You don't see the dog food owners going around wearing diamond encrusted dog food pendant around their necks."

Public Enemy is touring with X-Clan, another highly influential group famous for forceful political critiques of the country's racialized politics. I asked Chuck D if the messages of PE and X-Clan are still relevant 20 years after their first introduction to the mainstream music scene.

"Fight the Power" can mean a lot of things to a lot of people everywhere," he says. "A black man was shot fifty times in New York last week. That climate is still festering out there. Twenty years is nothing in the span of social time. In music time, one year is a long time, but we're still listening to John Lennon's 'Imagine.' Bob Dylan opened the doors long ago, saying you should try to do more with a song. I always tell people, make a record that will last 20, 30, 50 years."

Given Public Enemy's refusal to settle comfortably into has-been status, it's likely Chuck D will be taking his own advice for years to come.

EW

Jessie Marquez



From Cuba With Love

Time away gives Marquez music to share

Almost a year ago I wrote about Jessie Marquez's plans to travel to Latin America to study music. The local singer is back, having spent eight months with her family in Cuba, and she's once again performing with guitarist Mike Denny.

On her trip, Marquez performed at Boleros de Oro, a national festival, for the second year in a row. As part of this island-wide festival, Marquez traveled throughout the many provinces, performing with other artists. She also produced a CD by Marilys Gonzalez, whom she met during last year's festival. Marquez had enough time and money to produce one CD and chose Gonzalez over recording her own music. "I think she is the greatest, or one of the greatest, living singers in Cuba today," says Marquez. "She's virtually unknown because she doesn't live in Havana. When I met her it was like meeting

an unknown Ella Fitzgerald. She's a master." Gonzalez's CD is "in the demo phase."

While in Cuba, Marquez studied at ISA, the national school of arts, and performed at many venues as an invited guest. "It was great," says Marquez, but not being able to legally work meant she couldn't develop her own material. "As a foreigner I was never given a work visa, and things are highly controlled there, even for Cuban artists," she says. "If you don't graduate from music school you're unable to join an artist's union, so you're not officially allowed to work."

Marquez's time on the island has pumped up her repertoire with new inspiration found in bossa nova, but not the Brazilian kind. "Bossa nova is played a lot in Cuba, too. I discovered this rich treasure trove of composers that nobody knows about!" says Marquez. "I brought back beautiful music, and we're also

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THURSDAY DEC. 14

AXE & FIDDLE The Swingin' Marmulukeys-8
THE COOLER Karaoke-9:30
COUNTRY SIDE The Alliance Band-8:30
COZMIC PIZZA Marisa-8:30
DIABLO'S 80s Rewind-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Sauce Policy, Conjugal Visitors-10; Reggae, funk
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Karaoke w/Pete Christie-7
HAPPY HOURS Karaoke w/Jim-8:30
JAXX Sweet Island Thyme, Loco Motive-9
JO FEDERIGO'S Jo Fed's All Star Jazz Jam-9
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ VJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B
JOHN HENRY'S '80s Night w/Chris, Jen and John-10
LA OFICINA DJ Felipe & his Latin Expression-9; Salsa dancing
LATITUDE 21 The Mothership Connection w/The Brothers of Beat-10; Funk, soul, hip hop
LONE STAR Texas Hold'em-7
LUCKEY'S The Grand Street Band-10; Rock
MAC'S AT THE VET'S U-Jam w/Keith Harrison-8:30
MAIN STREET SPFD Texas Hold'em-8
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
OVERTIME GRILL West Side Blues Jam-8
ROCK 'N' RODEO Ladies' Night w/ Jon Michaels-8:30; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Frank Zappa Tribute w/Ike Willis-9:30

SAMURAI DUCK Black Rose Burlesque-10
SPIRITS Johnny Wilde-9; Rock
TABOO DJ Tekneek-10; Hip hop, dance, tech-no
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9; Hip hop
TAYLOR'S DJ Red Fox-10; hip hop
TERRITORIAL WINERY Ricardo Cardenas-7; Flamenco guitar
VILLAGE GREEN Karaoke w/Rising Phoenix Productions-9
WETLANDS Live Grateful Dead shows on DVD-11
THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7
WOW HALL Jonathan Richman, Tommy Larkins, Laura Kemp-8; Acoustic rock

FRIDAY DEC. 15

AXE & FIDDLE Gypsy Dave & the Burnt River Drifters-9; Acoustic
CHARLIE MAC'S The Symptoms-9
THE CITY DJ Simy-10; Hip hop revolution, top 40
COUNTRY SIDE Roughstock-9
COZMIC PIZZA Middle Eastern Dance Guild of Eugene-7; Belly dancing
DIABLO'S Flava Fridays w/Supa J-10; Hip hop
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Johnson Unit-10
EARL'S JUKE JOINT The Amaze-A-Matics-8:30
EUGENE CITY BREWERY Mr. Bill's Trivia Show-8
HAPPY HOURS Party Night w/The Alliance Band-9

JAZZ STATION Swing Express-7:30; Swing jazz
JO FEDERIGO'S Farnell Newton, Markus Renolds Quintet-9
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ DJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
JOHN HENRY'S In the Name of God, Paranaut, Monday With A Bullet-9
LA OFICINA DJ Felipe & his Latin Expression-9; Salsa dancing
LATITUDE 21 Da Real Thing w/Brimstone Sounds-10
LAVELLES Gus Russell-5:30
LONE STAR DJ Tony-9
LUCKEY'S Ingredients-10; Local indie
MAC'S AT THE VETS The Vipers w/Deb Cleveland-9
MCDONALD THEATRE Public Enemy, X-Clan, The Banned-8
THE O BAR Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
OK TAVERN Big Boots Karaoke Show w/ Boots Houghton-9
OREGANO'S Don da Barber-10; Jazz; down-tempo
PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN Walker T. Ryan-7
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon Michaels & "The Schmoo" Kevin Schmoop-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S The Fast Computers 3rd Annual X-Mas Show, feat. Tom Heini & more-9; Holiday classics
SAMURAI DUCK Rapid Demize, 19 Limbs,

Zacurra Smelliot-9; Punk
TABOO DJ Tekneek, DJ Kal-El, DJ Rollo-9; Hip hop, R&B, reggae
TANGO CENTER DJ Herman Salsa Dance w/Cana Son-8
TIME OUT Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7. Karaoke w/ Jan, Jon-Michael & DANIMAL-9:30

SATURDAY DEC. 16

AX BILLY Tim Clarke-8
AXE & FIDDLE The Frankie Hernandez Band-9; Soul, funk
CHARLIE MAC'S The Symptoms-9
THE CITY DJ Redd Fox-10; Top 40, hip hop, 80s/90s
CLUB SNAFU Freaks Dance Party w/Audio Schizophrenic & Supergirl-9:30
COUNTRY SIDE Roughstock-9
COZMIC PIZZA Calango-9
DIABLO'S DJ PorkKnuckles-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Johnny D & the Bad Fish Band, Wetsock-10; Ska
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Dennis Monroe & The Special Guests-8:30
EL DORADO Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
HAPPY HOURS Brandos-9
JAXX Mark Shields, The Dahman Beck Band, Al Rivers-9; Blues
JAZZ STATION Piano Fundraiser Party-7:30
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ VJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
JO FEDERIGO'S The Moon Box-9
JOHN HENRY'S The Sawyer Family, The Whopner County Country All-Stars-9
LA OFICINA DJ Felipe & his Latin

Expression-9; Salsa dancing
LAVELLES Mark Hazzard-5:30
LONE STAR Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
LUCKEY'S Ultraterrestrial, Ashley Raines, The Skinnys-10
MAC'S AT THE VETS Big Monte-9:30; Texas rock 'n blues
MAIN ST. SPFD Texas Hold'Em-8
MAIN ST. JAVA Open Mic Night-7:30
MAX'S Cribbage tournament-4 The Rhythm Method-10
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-Us: Tim-9
OREGANO'S Don da Barber-10; Jazz; down-tempo
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon Michaels & "The Schmoo" Kevin Schmoop-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Jessie Marquez and Mike Denny Quartet-9:30; Cuban bolero
SAMURAI DUCK Rose Moyer, The Hedonist, Drawback-9; Metal
TABOO DJ Tekneek-9; Hip hop, R&B
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9:30; Retro mix
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Jazzy house, hip hop
WETLANDS The Psychodaies, Mystic Canyon, Fortune Cookie-10; Indie rock
THE WOODSMAN The Michael Anderson Trio-9
WOW HALL Celebration of the Life of Beth Grafe w/Felicidades-6:30; Memorial dance

SUNDAY DEC. 17

COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-8
COZMIC PIZZA Sam Marshall, Charlotte Thistle-7
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Killer Karaoke-9



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JOHN HENRY Broadway Revue-10; Burlesque, variety
LUCKEY'S Singer-songwriters Forum w/Patrick Hayden-9
MAX'S Open Mic-8; Acoustic variety
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-U's: Tim-9
QUACKERS Bill Rhoads & the Party Kings-9
SAM BOND'S Irish Jam-5
SAMURAI DUCK DJ Green Pill-9
THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7. Karaoke w/ Jan, Jon-Michael & DANIMAL-8

MONDAY DEC. 18

BLACK FOREST Caught in the Act Karaoke-10
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA Youth Open Mic-7
DIABLO'S Spinnin' Black Circles-10; Rock DJs
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Paul Biondi's Blues Jam-7
JO FEDERIGO'S Cotton Club Party w/Ben Darwish Trio-9
JOGGER'S Texas Hold'em-7
SAM BOND'S Bingo with Tom Heint-9
SAMURAI DUCK Cinder Circus-10; Industrial

THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7. Karaoke w/ Jan, Jon-Michael & DANIMAL-9

TUESDAY DEC. 19

BLACK FOREST Evil Eve-10; Butt rock
THE CITY Groovy Tuesdays w/DJ Simy-9:30; Disco, funk, 70s/80s
THE COOLER Texas Hold 'em-7
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke with Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA Acoustic Open Mic-7
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Open Mic w/Kisha-9
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Karaoke w/Sonya-7
JAXX Ariel Storm, Suzanne Benoraden-9
JO FEDERIGO'S Rooster's Blues Jam-8
JOGGER'S Karaoke w/Absolute DJs-9:30
LUCKEY'S Open Mic-9
MACHO'S PIZZA Family-Friendly Karaoke-7
MCSHANE'S Tricycle Races-9
THE O BAR Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
O'DONNELL'S DJs-B-U's: Tim-9
OUR DAILY BREAD Brian Toon-6; Light jazz guitar
QUACKERS Karaoke with Jon-Michael-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJ Smuve-8:30; Old school hip hop, top 40
SAM BOND'S Bluegrass Jam-9
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke w/ Lydia-8

TABOO Open Mic Hip Hop hosted by DJ Tekneek-10
TAYLOR'S Karaoke-9
THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7. Live music jam, open mic-9

WEDNESDAY DEC. 20

AXE & FIDDLE Bluegrass Jam-7:30
CHARLIE MAC'S Karaoke-9
THE CITY Caught in the Act Karaoke-9
DIABLO'S Open Turntables-10
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Originals & Open Mic w/Peter Giri-7
FATHOMS/PEGASUS PIZZA Karaoke w/Jared-9
JAXX Dance for Peace with Audio Schizophrenic-9:30
JO FEDERIGO'S UO jazz student showcase-6:30. Paul Orbell Quartet-8:30
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ DJ Ty-9:30; Dance, house, '80s remixes
JOHN HENRY'S DJ Kai El vs. DJ Tekneek-10; Reggae vs. hip hop
LONE STAR Coyote Ugly Night, DJ Tony-9
LUCKEY'S Manis-10; Jazz
MAC'S AT THE VETS Christie & McCallum-8; Honky-tonk rock
MULLIGAN'S Open mic sign-up-9
PANDORA'S BOX Strip-e-oke-9; Karaoke
QUACKERS Blues Jam-8:30
SAM BOND'S The Devil Makes Three, Trainwrecks-9
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke w/ Lydia-8
TAP 'N' KEG Karaoke w/Rising Phoenix Productions-8
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Jazzy house, hip hop, disco
THE WOODSMAN Texas Hold'em-7. J.C. Rico-9

XTREME GAMING Caught in the Act Karaoke-6; Family karaoke

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SA School of Cool-7:30
SU Blues Jam-4

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arts shorts

BY SUZI STEFFEN

WE'RE NUMBER 99!

Well, not really. We (and by "we," I mean the Eugene Symphony) are the 99th orchestra to be graced by the presence of Henry Fogel in his three and a half years of tenure as the president of the American Symphony Orchestra League. But the Symphony isn't far down on his list. "I have for years held the Eugene Symphony as a model," Fogel said in a Dec. 8 meeting with local classical music media types. Why? "It's not instinctive for most orchestras to go about a music director search with the idea that if the person is here 10 years from now, then it's been a mistake," he said, pointing out that former music directors Marin Alsop and Miguel Harth-Bedoya both moved on to larger city orchestras (Alsop soon begins her tenure as music director of the Baltimore Symphony, and Harth-Bedoya has been in Fort Worth since 2000). As for current music director Giancarlo Guerrero, Fogel seemed impressed. "This



Henry Fogel

guy," he said, "is extremely gifted."

The ASOL has nearly a thousand member orchestras, including around 400 professional orchestras and a lot of youth, college and community groups. Fogel has his fingers firmly on the pulse of orchestra success in the U.S., and he doesn't buy dire predictions about the aging of the audience. Yes, he said, there are two main problems. One is that "in the last 25 years, schools have cut back on music education, particularly performance in the schools." That means "this is the first generation of 35-45 year olds who came out of schools that didn't teach music." And secondly, he cited the fact that many 35-45 year olds grew up with television on most of the time. As the only person below that age group in the room, your intrepid *EW* reporter felt compelled to ask about using YouTube and podcasts to draw in new audiences and accomplish some amusing music education (the Symphony could easily create a YouTube-perfect voiceover clip with Guerrero miming a gallop to spur on his orchestra during the second movement of Beethoven's Ninth). Fogel said, "I haven't looked into that yet."

But Fogel explained that many orchestras are financially stable this year, perhaps because of a recovering economy. And the Eugene Symphony almost always operates in the black. Fogel does think that orchestras need to adapt to the changing theatrical world, however: "You go in, and nothing happens that would surprise Mendelssohn." He suggested theatrical lighting that changed during each movement and fixed cameras to show musicians' faces, hands and (in piano concertos) footwork.

The symphony used two stageside screens and several cameras during the Dec. 9 performance. At intermission, the audience filled out surveys about the screens. Marketing Director Raychel Kolen notes survey results showed that "we've got a very musically literate bunch in our audience" since both those who hated the innovation (more than half) and those who loved it noted that the camera folks didn't often enough show featured soloists as they played. Fogel was not impressed with the approach of using several cameras, but he added that it is time "to change the stuffy, snobbish attitude" and "create an atmosphere that's not alien to younger people." Fogel, in an internet-savvy move, now has a blog (www.artsjournal.com/ontherecord), where we hope he will soon post about Eugene.

Opening Nights

A Christmas Carol

Opens Dec. 14 at the Pleasant Hill Community Theatre. We're so stunned by a third *Xmas Carol* that we're not sure what to say (thank heavens for press releases). Long-time arts journalist Fred Crafts adapted the Dickens version as what he calls a "1940s-style radio broadcast, with actors reading the script and sound effects providing the color." Well, super, then. It's bound to be different than puppets and singing ghosts. Anyway, it might be time for some of us cynical types to just *give in* and enjoy. Show dates are Dec. 14, 15 & 16 (special dessert performance). Call 988-1195 for tickets.

Backyard Birds

To feed or not to feed?

For several days in late October, a hummingbird returned to the spot on our deck where a fuchsia had been blooming until a sudden freeze killed the flowers. The rufous hummingbirds that defended their flower patches so vigorously in summer had already left for points south. This bird was an Anna's hummingbird, and a solitary male Anna's has been around our yard three winters in a row now. In really bad weather we may not see him for several days, but then he surfaces again. I asked Maeve Sowles and Dick Lamster (president and former president, respectively, of Lane County Audubon Society) what hummingbirds eat in the wintertime.

Hummingbirds still get nectar from the few winter flowers, they said, and they eat small insects and spiders, as they do all year round, and tree sap. They also use feeders. I wondered if our neighbor's hummingbird feeder could be an important factor in keeping our hummer around. "In winter, it's possible their dependency on feeders may be greater than it is in summer, but it still isn't very high," Sowles said. "During exceptional cold snaps or heavy snow, we recommend that people who do use hummingbird feeders in winter keep them up consistently and try to keep them from freezing. Never put out a feeder that's above room temperature, though!"

Fewer bird species are around in winter

but they may be especially noticeable, particularly small birds that forage in mixed flocks, like chickadees, kinglets and (if you're lucky) Townsend's warblers. I love to watch birds at other people's bird feeders, but I have never had one myself. And, I've discovered, there are differences of opinion on the topic. Some people are concerned that birds may become dependent on feeders, which, they feel, serve the birder rather than the birds. Others cite problems with house cats or disease. When I asked Lamster if bird feeders are a good idea, however, he responded "The short answer is yes. Since we are destroying habitat at an alarming rate, the birds' natural habitat and thus their food supply is being reduced daily. Birds that use feeders still forage for natural foods in the area, but feeders do help."

Winter may be the season when supplemental feeding is most useful. If you choose to feed birds in winter only, author Russell Link (see below) suggests starting in mid-October and continuing until April; keep feeders full during extra cold weather, and be particularly careful about hygiene. "It's extremely important to keep all bird feeders clean," said Sowles. For hummingbird feeders this means taking them down at the first sign of any cloudiness in the solution and cleaning them thoroughly with hot water, including the perches and outside surfaces.

"Seed feeders should be cleaned out at least weekly if they are wet and every two or



You don't need feeders; birds will come to any yard that provides cover and food sources.

three weeks in the summer. This involves discarding the old seed and then cleaning the surface thoroughly. It is also helpful to wipe the perches of hanging feeders with a mild bleach solution (10 percent) weekly and using the bleach solution on the platform feeders also. The feeders themselves can become a source of harmful bacteria and fungus and spread disease from one bird to another."

You don't need feeders, of course, to enjoy birds. Local forester and naturalist Whitey Lueck used to put up feeders. Now,

he says, "I feed birds by providing terrific habitat!" Birds will come to any yard that provides cover and food sources. Water and some good perching spots will make your yard even more attractive. Among many guides to enriching your own bird habitat, I recommend Russell Link's exceptionally detailed *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* (University of Washington); and *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard* by Kris Wetherbee (Lark Books) Signed copies are available from Wetherbee's website, www.wingedwildlife.com

Don't forget that bird-related items, from books to binoculars, make great gifts. Garden centers offer nest boxes, roost boxes, seed and feeders. For birders who venture beyond the sitting room window, mud boots are a must (and lightweight polypropylene gloves are very helpful). You could also sign up bird-besotted loved ones for *The Quail*, the newsletter of Lane County Audubon at www.laneaudubon.org It will keep them informed about local sightings and birding opportunities. As for books, an up-to-date field manual is the first essential, and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* is a current favorite with many birders. *Birds of Lane County* (Alan Contreras, ed.; OSU Press) is a great new guide to best nearby birding locations and what to find there.

Rachel Foster of Eugene is a garden consultant and author of All About Gardens, a selection of past Eugene Weekly columns. She can be reached at rfoster@efn.org

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT of the State of Oregon for Lane County. In the matter of Helenjane Ruth Kudelko, Deceased. Case No. 50-06-21452. Notice to interested persons. Notice is given that Jerry Thomas Williams has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the

estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative c/o Robert Cole Tozer, 96 E. Broadway, #3, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Robert Cole Tozer. Dated and first Published Dec. 7, 2006. Personal Representative(s) Jerry Thomas Williams, 1604 Jackson St., Missoula, MT 59802. Attorney for Personal Representative, Robert Cole Tozer, 96 E. Broadway, #3, Eugene, OR 97401, 541-345-0795.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT Of the State of Oregon for Lane County. In the matter of the Estate of: Mary Mackinlay Weir, Deceased. Case No. 50-06-22691. Notice to interested persons. Notice is hereby given that Glenn Weir Rimel has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned attorney for the personal representative at 767 Willamette Street, Suite 302, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All Persons whose rights may be affected by

the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published this Dec. 7 of 2006. Personal Representative, DePaolis & Shepard, 767 Willamette Street, Suite 302, Eugene, OR 97401.541-683-8200.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT of the State of Oregon for the County of Lane. In the matter of the Estate of: Wilma E. Merrell. Case No. 50-06-22952. Claims against the Estate of Wilma E. Merrell, Deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 50-06-22952, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Gerald V. Anderson, c/o Attorney Don B. Dickman, PO BOX 5682, 1156 Garfield Stet, Eugene, Oregon 97405, within four (4) months from December 7, 2006, the date of first publication of Notice, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or from the attorney for the Personal Representative, Don B. Dickman, Attorney at Law. 541-485-6767.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT Of the State of Washington County of Thurston. In re Parentage of: Aiden E. Usher, Child, Tracy Usher, petitioner, and Thomas R. Estes,

Respondent. No. 04-5-50121-9. Order on Motion to release Guardian, Defaulting Respondent on Parenting Plan, Denying Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment. This Matter coming on regularly for hearing on November 18, 2004, pursuant to Petitioner's Motion to Release Guardian and Litem and Order Holding Respondent in Default on Parenting Plan, on the Court's own motion regarding Respondent's Motion for "Summary Judgment, and the Court on its own denying Respondent's motion, the Court having reviewed the file and declarations and having heard argument of counsel, now, therefore, it is hereby Order of Motion to release Guardian and Litem, Defaulting Respondent on Parenting Plan, and denying Respondent's Motion for summary Judgment -1. Ordered that the Petitioner's Motion to release the Guardian ad Litem is granted. It is further Ordered that the Respondent is in default on the Parenting Plan and Parenting Plan will be entered denying respondent visitation. It is further ordered, on the Court's own Motion for Summary Judgment denied. Dated this 7 day of December, 2006. Presented by: Foster, Foster & Schaller. Attorneys and Counselors, 701 Evergreen Plaza, 711 South Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington 98501. 360-943-1770.

Meetings

MARIJUANA ANONYMOUS meets Mon. 7-8, Wed. 7:30-9, Sat. 6:30-7:30pm. St. Mary's Episcopal Church 13th and Pearl. www.marijuana-anonymous.org

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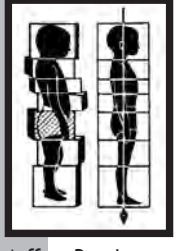
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jonesin' crossword By Matt Jones

"Case Sensitive"

- They want attention? WE'LL GIVE 'EM ATTENTION.

Across

- 1 THEY APPEAR AFTER BRAND NAMES: ABBR.
- 4 CARVEY AND GOULD
- 9 SITE OF A TEXAN TRAGEDY
- 13 ___ TZU (TOY DOG)
- 14 PUT IN A SEAT
- 15 MILKY GEM
- 16 ELIZABETH OF "TRANSAMERICA"
- 17 MAGAZINE WITH A "CAR OF THE YEAR" AWARD
- 19 e.e. cummings MEMOIR OF 1922, WITH "THE"
- 21 WORD BEFORE CROSS OR SKIING
- 22 HEAT'S GP.
- 23 MEADOW CALL
- 26 "___ DEATH" (BRAD GARRETT SITCOM)
- 27 BODY SHOT
- 30 LAWN TOOLS
- 32 GOES OFF COURSE

- 35 KISS IN A KIA
- 36 FEMINIST WORK BY bell hooks
- 39 PARAKEET'S PAD
- 41 THEY MAY BE NICKNAMED "BIG JIM AND THE TWINS"
- 43 SPREAD THE JOY
- 46 HIP ENDING
- 47 SORORITY LETTER
- 49 WORD BEFORE HANGING UP
- 50 JOHNNY ___ (THE COPS)
- 52 SQUARE ___ (KIND OF BOAT)
- 54 k.d. lang ALBUM OF 1995
- 57 PROP FOR LIBERACE
- 60 OTHER, IN OVIEDO
- 61 "PET" THAT NEEDS A LOT OF WATER
- 62 B.A.'S GROUP, WITH "THE"
- 63 APPEARANCE
- 64 PLACID
- 65 RULES OF PUNCTUATION, E.G.

- 66 KIND OF RECORDING FORMAT: ABBR.

Down

- 1 1980S AD VILLAIN WHO TRIED TO RUIN PIZZA
- 2 SMALL-TIME
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGIST'S FRAGMENT
- 4 BOXER, NOTABLY
- 5 EX-GIANTS OUTFIELDER MOISES
- 6 BADMINTON BARRIERS
- 7 NUT IN A HAT
- 8 DISCO
- 9 TEQUILA BOTTLE ITEM
- 10 MIGHTY JOE YOUNG, E.G.
- 11 PRESERVE
- 12 DIRTY ___ MAN
- 13 WORN OUT
- 18 ANIMAL LICKED FOR ITS BUFOXINS
- 20 ADD TO THE CONCOCTION

- 23 "LET'S SEE SOME SPIRIT!"
- 24 PATH WHEN PLAYING CATCH
- 25 PRESENT A RIDDLE
- 28 "HERE'S ___ FROM ME TO YOU..."
- 29 TRIPS AROUND THE SUN
- 31 LITTLE BUZZER
- 33 GOES HEAD TO HEAD (WITH)
- 34 "M*A*S*H" EMMY-WINNER
- 37 CONQUERED
- 38 "WEST SIDE STORY" SONG
- 39 HAILED ENTITY
- 40 "UPRIGHT CITIZENS BRIGADE" ALUM POEHLER
- 42 SHAVED THE SHEEP
- 44 MAG FOUNDED IN 1945
- 45 "THE BIG D"
- 48 "COMFORT OF STRANGERS" SINGER-SONGWRITER BETH
- 51 OK CORRAL NAME
- 53 TRAVELOCITY MASCOT
- 54 RADIO PERSONALITY CAROLLA
- 55 HEED
- 56 RIVER TO THE CASPIAN
- 57 300, TO TIBERIUS
- 58 "I'VE FIGURED IT OUT!"
- 59 IT'S REALLY NOTHING

For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. Reference puzzle #0285

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S JONESIN' CROSSWORD

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	W	H	A	T	D	O	Y	O	U	M	E	A	N
P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	T	R	A	I	N	
A	B	I	T	O	H	I	O	T	I	T	O		
A	B	F	A	B	E	R	G	H	T	T	P		
R	S	T	O	U	T	S	O	N	I	L	E		
			L	O	S	E	R	D	O	O	Z	E	R
C	A	N	G	E	T	A	W	I	T	N	E	S	
E	L	E	V	E	N	M	O	V	I	E			
O	L	X	R	E	M	W	A	C	B	F	A		
A	C	T	S	T	A	O	E	Q	U	I	P		
R	A	T	A	D	U	S	T	E	U	T	E	P	
S	P	I	L	L	E	D	T	H	E	B	E	A	N
S	M	E	A	R	E	D	A	R	O	U	N	D	
			E	M	M	Y	N	O	M	I	N	E	E

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free will astrology BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Listen! I will be honest with you. I do not offer the old smooth prizes, but offer rough new prizes." Walt Whitman wrote that in his poem "Song of the Open Road," and now I'm saying it to you. If you expect the events of 2007 to bring you old smooth prizes, you'll be disappointed. But if you can figure out how to change your attitude in such a way as to actually yearn for rough new prizes, you will be rewarded beyond anything you can imagine. The first hint of how true this is will arrive soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Drugs and alcohol need play no role in activating this week's potentials. Your mind will just naturally inhabit what we in the consciousness industry call an "altered state." This is very different from being sick or crazy, and it could turn out much better than being merely healthy. My advice to you? Break taboos that are no longer necessary to observe. Wander uninhibitedly in zones that have previously been off-limits. Explore the frontiers of fun. (P.S. If you try what I'm suggesting, chances are good that you'll finally be able to scratch an itch that has been maddeningly inaccessible. But be sure you know when you've scratched enough.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "God was a little too busy to do anything about the genocide in Darfur last weekend," reported Fark.com a while back, "but did manage, during a snowstorm in Buffalo, to leave fallen tree limbs in the form of a crucifix on a statue of Jesus." That's a mean-spirited interpretation of the Divine Wow's behavior, although it's funny in a snarky kind of way. Your assignment in the coming week, on the other hand, is to joke about spiritual matters with a more generous attitude. It's prime time for you to be humorously amazed by the tricky enigmas of creation. (To see the miracle in Buffalo, go here: <http://tinyurl.com/ub2z3>)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Imagine you're with a team of explorers in Antarctica. You're climbing the 2,000-foot granite spire called Rakekniven that thrusts up out of the ice in Queen Maud Land. The temperature is 10 degrees below zero. There's not a plant or animal in sight. The blinding white emptiness

of the wasteland beneath you fills you with desolate reverence, alienated awe, and soaring gratitude. As far as you are from everything that normally gives you comfort, you've rarely felt stronger or more alive. Got that scene in your mind's eye, Cancerian? Though you won't experience it literally, I bet you'll experience emotions similar to those you'd have if you did.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your face alternately contorts with strain and breaks into beatific grins. Your body language careens from garbled jargon to melodic poetry. Your clothes make a fool of you one day and show off your inner beauty the next. Are you becoming bi-polar? Probably not. The more likely explanation is that you're being convulsed by growing pains that are killing off bad old habits as fast as they're creating interesting new ones. This is one of those times when you should be proud to wear a badge that says "hurts so good."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here's the bad news. Sometimes your perfectionism verges on being a sophisticated death trip - a manic compulsion to trap life inside a tight little cell where no change is allowed. Here's the good news: You now have the power to strip away the pathological part of your perfectionism and liberate the healthy core of it. Please swear to me that you'll figure out how to be more fluid and playful with your zeal for excellence. Spend less time running your mind in vicious circles and more time running your mind in upward spirals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There are three kinds of darkness: (1) pathology and evil; (2) the mysterious unknown; (3) the shadowy, unripe parts of our psyches that are on their way to becoming more interesting and useful but are still awkward and inarticulate. I believe that you can help prevent outbreaks of the first kind of darkness by developing a closer personal relationship with the second and third types. This would be a good time for you to do just that, Libra.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio actor Leonardo DiCaprio is not a big fan of locking lips.

"When you think about it, kissing is pretty disgusting," he told Britain's *Eva* magazine. "The human mouth is one of the dirtiest things on this planet. There's so much bacteria, slime, and trapped food." I hope that you will not only ignore DiCaprio's opinion in the coming months, but that you will launch a campaign to increase your commitment to kissing and all related pursuits. In my opinion, the potentials inherent in 2007 should inspire you to raise your mastery of the oral arts to a very high level. And it starts now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "The thing that makes you exceptional is inevitably that which must also make you lonely," said playwright Lorraine Hansberry. I agree. That's why my exuberant advice for you this week is also cautionary. According to my reading of the omens, in 2007 you will have unprecedented opportunities to cultivate and express the special talents that make you so unique. To get to the root of them, though, you'll have to be willing to get less of the approval and appreciation you'd ideally like to have. You may not have to be relentlessly solitary, but you will have to be vigorously independent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Harper's Index says the U.S. government spends more than twice as much on military defense than do Russia, China, North Korea and Iran combined. The aggregate population of those four countries, on the other hand, is five times larger than America's 300 million. One might reasonably conclude, therefore, that while the U.S. has a right to safeguard itself, its glut of weaponry is absurdly extreme. I'm not definitively asserting, Capricorn, that you, too, are over-invested in defending and protecting your interests, but the astrological omens suggest it's a possibility. Please look into it. In any case, consider freeing up some of your contracted, fearful energy and directing it toward more pleasurable and constructive goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some Christians believe Jesus will come back to fix this corrupt world. Certain Jewish sects propose that the messiah will soon appear on Earth for the first time. Among

Muslims, many predict the legendary 12th Imam will return and bring salvation to humanity. In India, devotees of Vishnu expect the avatar Kalki to arrive on the scene and carry out a miraculous redemption. Even the Buddhists prophesy Maitreya, the chosen one who'll establish universal peace. Personally, I suspect that the whole point of our spectacularly confounding moment in history is that each of us must become our own savior. The coming year will be an excellent time, Aquarius, for you to master the art of doing just that: being your own savior. And it all starts now. (P.S. You can perform a great service by being a role model for those who haven't yet figured out how to be their own saviors.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In Cracker's hit song "Where Have Those Days Gone," singer David Lowery recounts a road trip he made through his old haunts in California. "In Mendocino County, I thought I saw Thomas Pynchon at the end of the bar," he croons. "No, that's just Rob Brezsnay writing his astrology column." While in the past I've been confused with David Duchovny, Peter Coyote, and Ry Cooder, this marks the first time I've been mistaken for the great novelist Pynchon. Thanks, David. Now it's time for you Pisceans to find out what celebrity you resemble. The omens say it's perfect moment for you to identify with a hero, role model, or famous mover and shaker. To do so might help free your self-image from the unheroic confines it has gotten stuck in. Go here to investigate: <http://tinyurl.com/c4x23>

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	1		3					
						2		4
	7	3	5	2		8		
						4		9
9		5		4		6		8
2		7						
		9		1	3	7	4	
3		1						
					6		9	

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DWP 59 Fit body/mind/heart/soul/finances. Enjoy hiking, friends, travel, movies, wine, conversation, reading, music, the arts. Seeking humble soft spoken gentleman to make me laugh/sigh/tremble. ☎ 68046

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Vivacious lady with voluptuous figure has sparkling green eyes an enticing smile, looking for gentleman friends. Enjoys dancing, sailing, theater, symphony, coast, gourmet cooking and sports. Call. ☎ 9318

THRESHOLD
Spent the last decade building a house, now venturing out. Fit, 56, honest, delightful, independent. Writer artist, fascinated with the world. Seeking kindness, evolution, fun with or without power tools. ☎ 9165

SPONTANEOUS FUN!
Looking for laughs, live rock/metal music, dates, dining, dancing, drinks, coast runs, atvs, horses, motorcycles. You: stable, fun, funny, active, generous, drug free, music and animal loving hottie to hang out with, 30-50. Me: the same, 40, no kids, fun girl. LTR? STR? ☎ 9154

READY, SET...GO
Seeking sexy friend with no baggage, over 40, single and self sufficient, like me. Likes dancing, Latin especially, football, hiking, politics. Fun, open, 420 friendly. LTR possible. ☎ 9145

RED MEAT

swift kick rib tickler

from the secret files of
Max Cannon



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SCI-FI GIRL
SWF, 44 and happy! fun, attractive, deep, 53 125 lbs. Values honesty, responsibility, and humor. ISO unattached HWP man who likes movies, hot tubs, and indoor/outdoor family fun! ☎ 9143

FOREVER SOULMATE
SWF, 30, Bronx, New York. I have an average body type, smiling eyes and kind nature. I would like to meet the right man older than me to share life with. Someone with a strong, positive and lively personality who can care for and treat a woman like a real gentleman. I am seeking a long term relationship forever. contact me at mary_john_girl@unionplus.net ☎ 9136

COMPATIBLE MAN
Pollyanna seeks compatible man for LTR. Must be willing to hold positive thoughts. Savor simple nature. Be fit, active, love animals. Life is good. Let's have some fun! ☎ 9102



SUGAR DADDY
Older Sugar Daddy looking for a hottie, 18-27. Shopping for sexy clothes and spiked heels. I want arm candy, someone who can be naughty once in a while. ☎ 9396

CHRISTIAN BOUND
SWM 59, good health, fun loving, sense of humor, ISO Christian oriented women 40's to 50's, for friendship, sharing faith, weekend drives, art, hiking, rodeos, spur of the moment stuff. Golf a plus. ☎ 9368

AWESOME
I am an awesome and lonely dude in search of a true, down to earth, kind hearted woman for friendship and possible LTR. I'm into rock n' roll and other music, tattoos, outdoor fun, camping, dining, and other fun. I'm a 34 yo SWM looking for a 25-45 yo lady, race unimportant. ☎ 9364

GAL PAL WANTED
New to area, 58 YO, DWM 6'4" 225 LBS, HWP, LD. Scorpio, athletic, handsome, one woman guy, no std's, spiritual, mostly veggie, animal lover, common sense, easy going, simple life, professional self employed, seeks gal pal for friendship, LTR. Movies/TV, eats, coffee, walks, talks, bike. You be you, somewhat similar or not, Hungry to meet you, lets talk, Thank you! ☎ 9370

GREAT BALLS
OF FIRE! Winona Ryder was my childhood heartthrob. Dark, serious, personal, and mmm so sexy. And a socialist? What's this office seeing? Its an adventure...in honesty. (no silly, pout your bong down, I pay the 20 bucks. get it?) ☎ 9372

ENJOY DISCIPLINE?
SWM looking for a female who needs discipline to enhance her life. All races are welcome, as are all sizes. ☎ 9369

LOVES TO KISS
Mid 50s SWM humorous, affectionate, easy going. Searching for a full figured woman who is outgoing, affectionate, humorous and loves to kiss, and who has a heart of gold. ☎ 9367

SEEKS BILINGUAL
SWM, 46, handsome Italian, sexy, athletic, seeks a Latina tutor in Spanish for dating. U B slender and outgoing fun! In Corvallis, Albany area. Second language is for work. ☎ 9366

ENERGIZER BUNNY
A PICTURE of a woman with a horse, a dog and a turkey. Settle me or hop on. Flat. ☎ 9365

HONEST WOMAN
SBM seriously looking for an honest woman between 25 & 55 anywhere in the world for marriage. ☎ 9363

BALLET DATE
Middle age cultured gentleman is praying for a date from the sugar plum fairy. Peace on ERT, goodwill between Christian and Pagan! Hindus and budhists are cheering from the bleachers!! ☎ 9360

YOUR THE ONE
Single male solipsist, 32, seeks single female solipsist, 27 to 37 yo., no kids, for romantic LTR. Your the one. ☎ 9362

YOUR LOVE
SWM. There must someone out there who wants my love. I must not be the only one in the world without love. Can I feel your warm loving heart. ☎ 9146

TRUE PARTNERSHIP
No oedipal games with older women seeking emotional incest with younger man please. Healthy, 45, fun, fit and seeking true partner in life and love. Let's celebrate life! ☎ 9144

NEAT NEST
Yumm Time, 59, 158 lbs, 5'10", personal growth, nature, restaurants, hot tubbing, sensual, massage oils, artistic, creative, tickle me with your fingers! ☎ 9141



EASY GOING FUN
Looking for an attractive, laid back, clean, fun loving female to hang out with my husband and I. Would be great Christmas present for the both of us. ☎ 9388

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT
Fun Loving 50's GF ISO intelligent life form traversing extraterrestrial highways, Aretha Franklin to Annie Lennox species welcome aboard. NS and fasten your seat belt. ☎ 9381

TIRED OF THE GAMES?
Looking for partner that is tired of all the games. Would like to settle down, travel, just enjoy life. From age 40-55. ☎ 9133



TAYLOR
You've been selling me turkey soup at The World Cafe. Single? Coffee? Andrew Write blind box "Taylor". ☎ 9393

THE SHEDD 12/1
Mr. Blue shirt, amazing smile, I really wish I'd said something to you. Can I say something now? ☎ 9392

FLOWER
Flower whatever makes you feel good princess of paradise, except my - litmus on how small this town is, parents this time. Naughty huh? Happy Birthday! I never knew...Until now. ☎ 9390

SINGLE DAD AD
Have you checked your voice mail? Flattered and available. Hot Beverage? ☎ 9389

I LOVE YOU
I'll carry on with you anytime. Give me your number when I see you again. Peppermint kisses anytime, as long as your giving them out. ☎ 9379

CONTRA SPARKLE
Missed you at the last dance Jacques. Hope you'll light up my night at the Dec. 9th dance. ☎ 9386

LISA LOEB
What tune would my uterus sing? "O Sweet Melissa," of course. Rummy? Girl talk? ☎ 9385

PASTE YOUR EYES
Obscure, black giant eyes, killed the sun's splendor, an open scroll of swarming teeth the horizon bleeds, crushed. ☎ 9383

NATHALINE
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! Hope your day is as FABULOUS as you! I am glad to be your friend.

MARTIKA AND DANNY
I took you in, fed you dinner, washed your clothes. You broke into our house and stole from us. Please give us back the red jewelry. I wore that in our wedding. People like you are the reason no one helps anyone anymore.

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The most beautiful girl in Eugene! Thank you for loving me.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Men Seeking Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Either/Or | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women Seeking Women | <input type="checkbox"/> I Saw You | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives |

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Abbreviations: **A** Asian • **B** Black • **Bi** Bisexual • **C** Couple • **Ch** Christian • **D** Divorced
F Female • **G** Gay • **H** Hispanic • **HWP** Height/ Weight proportionate • **J** Jewish • **M** Male
NA No alcohol • **NAm** Native American • **ND** No drugs • **NS** No smoking • **P** Professional
S Single • **W** White • **Wi** Widowed • **ISO** In search of • **LTR** Long-term relationship

Participants in *Eugene Weekly* Personals must be 18 years or older. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should occur in a public place and participants should not divulge addresses. *Eugene Weekly* does not screen or investigate individuals who place or respond to personals ads and makes no representation as to the character of these individuals. *Eugene Weekly* will not be responsible for the consequences of any interaction. Not all voice boxes contain voice greetings.

HEY FREAKY!

Aw... Your first "I Saw You"! You're one of a kind. Mongle on mongler. Bad breath sucks.



BOMBED QUAD AND DRAIN

Prettiest mot apropos name for the cast iron statue they commissioned. Gallery's called "accidents like this aren't accidents." I see you there. My aching incomplete. I weld, you're heroin and I am addict-ed. ☎ 9399

FIRE TIGER

It's meant to be...you always have been and always will be my one and only-timber tiger ☎ 9398

INEVITABLE

Es lo que siento por ti, algo que no me deja olvidarte y que no me deja vivir sin ti. Te amo mas que a todo. ☎ 9397

FALL CREEK CUTIE

Wood splitting, banana bread baking, card playing, Carhart wearing, goat milking wonder woman. You are my tall, dark and handsome. I love our late nights with ducks and Darth Vader. ☎ 9327

I FOUND LOVE

to be a difficult part of my life. Fear of opening the door and letting it touch me because it goes so deep. LS. ☎ 9142



SCI-FI LOVERSUNITE

Calling for all lovers and writers of speculative fiction to start a new, laid back, writers' group dedicated to sci-fi, fantasy, & other genres. call for info! ☎ 9404

LOVES THE BEACH

SWM, 46, Handsome, outgoing, athletic, seeks bilingual Spanish speaking, attractive, slender, outgoing female for dating. Albany or Corvallis. NS, ND. ☎ 9403

CATCH OF THE WEEK:

ARE YOU MY PEANUT?

Trying to connect with my spiritual soulmate! Blonde with chocolate brown eyes, 5'3, tan, 123 lbs, deep in soul, substance, for certain spiritual unique type. Personality a must...I'll be yours. ☎ 9375

WRITERS GROUP

Looking for dedicated writers of all kinds in love with the written word to start a small, intimate writers' group. Writers of all genres and styles wanted! Call for info. ☎ 9402

FOXY DANCER

I watched you shake that laffy taffy on the dance floor. I was speechless, maybe we should do it again. I might get that faded and join you. ☎ 9401

ADVENTURE BUDDIES

40 YO seeking new friends for hiking, biking, live music, and movies. Prefer open-minded, down to earth M/F. ☎ 9400

SCI-FI LOVERSUNITE

CALLING FOR all lovers and writers of speculative fiction to start a new, laid back, writers' group dedicated to sci-fi, fantasy, & other genres. call for info! ☎ 9328

TACO SHELL

You couldn't of came into my life at a better time. Thanks for cheering me up. You are a good person, never change. Hurry up and find me a fake ID. ☎ 9167



LOOKING AND WAITING

Tired of being treated like crap in a relationship? Always finding the wrong one? Then let me treat you like a queen! I am caring, compassionate, and a blast to have around. ☎ 9452

NEED SOUL SEX

MWM M-F TG, 39, NON SMOKER, light drinker, no drugs seeks same MWM M-F TG/TV/CD in a stable relationship for a secret affair possibly long term. ☎ 9451

CRUDE OIL

Kyoto. Telegram from Kuala Lumpur. Pirates off Coast of Africa. Tribal Leaders in the Americas. Islam and the Russian Federation. Tip off the iceberg, for your 25th birthday, hugs. ☎ 9330

THE CITY

I just wanted to tell everyone about a hot spot to go and have a great time. It's "The City" located on MLK attached to Kowloons. Friday and Saturday recommended. ☎ 9311

WANTED; GIRLFRIEND

ISO someone who wants to hang out with young fit couple to go hiking, biking, movies and passionate nights. ☎ 9147

LOOKING

Looking for clean cross dresser who wants to have fun. ☎ 9138

GOOD TIMES...

Single male, attractive, black hair, brown eyes, athletic build, looking for single or married women for fun. ☎ 9135



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I'm ready to be spoiled by a real gentleman. I love dates, romance and a sensual touch. Must be handsome, kind, generous, goal oriented, financially secure, worldly, and active. No cocky men, perts. 35+. I'm kind, pretty, sensual, 39, classy and ready for something new! ☎ 9450

WELL ENDOWED

SWM Very well endowed, very clean, Mid 40's, Discrete, looking for other Swingers, Nudist, and sex partners, no gay men. STD FREE. ☎ 9391

DEAR SANTA

I've been very naughty so could you bring my Bi-Bottom panty wearin hubby a 45+ Bi-top m. Then we can all share holiday cheer. Love Vagina. ☎ 9387

AJ'S SEVEN DWARFS

Lobbying carefully "Carl" Carlyle's Court. Making sure the robe is pressed. Headwrap fresh and that our sword is extra SICK! 'Cause Clearly Cascadia's own bin Ashkhababs' is a tough crowd. ☎ 9378

BORING DAD

ISO a female friend that enjoys hanging out. Talking and having sex with me and my girlfriend. We enjoy some movies, camping, hiking and shopping. ☎ 9376

MESSAGE

Couple, 40s, ISO fit, accountable, playful couple or women for connection, learning, massage and friendship. If you have any questions come check it out BABY! ☎ 9374

YM LOOKING FOR FUN

Young Male looking for discreet sexual fun with older woman, 25-35. ☎ 9371

Savage Love

WORDS OF PURE WISDOM by Dan Savage



I'm a 20-year-old straight girl. For six months, I was dating a guy I thought was nice and normal. One way my boyfriend showed he cared, or so I thought, was by massaging my feet after work (I wait tables to pay my tuition). Then he confessed that he has a foot fetish. He wasn't rubbing my feet to be sweet or tender or considerate, but for his own selfish reasons. I dumped him. He was very upset and is still begging me to take him back.

We had been talking about marriage, but that's over now. I don't want to be with someone who has a fetish. How can I know if he wants me back or just my feet? I know a lot of freaks write to you, and I enjoy reading about freaks, but I don't want to date a freak. Where can I find a normal man?

Freaked Out Girl

I owe you an answer, FOG, considering the number of new assholes I've ripped you since your letter arrived in September. At speaking gigs around the country, I've held you up as a shining example of sexual selfishness. Your most recent asshole dates from my talk at Cornell two weeks ago, where I spoke to a few hundred students about politics, dungeons, butt plugs, and you. (Sorry I couldn't make porn night, Risley, and thanks for everything, Lauren.)

On to your question: Where do you find a normal man? I have no fucking idea, as I've never met one. Kink and variance seem to be a natural, intrinsic aspect of male sexuality. And while most men, like your ex, fall on the mild end of the mild-to-wild continuum, if you can't handle the odd nonnormal sexual interest, FOG, I urge you to stop dating men, get a vibrator, and pack it in.

But here's what I really want to say to you:

Those foot rubs were fine—they were wonderful!—so long as you believed your boyfriend derived no pleasure from them. The moment you learned he enjoyed those foot rubs, too—my goodness, they turned him on!—you were no longer capable of deriving any pleasure from them yourself.

You know what, FOG? You suck.

You are the worst kind of sex partner: judgmental, selfish, and cruel. Should your boyfriend have come clean about his foot fetish sooner? Sure, maybe a month or two earlier. But not because you had some right to know what a freak he was, FOG, but because it would have spared him from getting more emotionally invested in a freakishly petty and sexually immature dumbfuck.

I predict—no, I guarantee—that this is going to come back to haunt you. There is a Karmic Rule of Kink (KROK), FOG, and it goes something like this: "Dump the honest foot fetishist and you will marry the dishonest necrophiliac." Break up with a guy over his relatively tame fetish—and a foot fetish is about as tame as they get—and KROK will make sure your next boyfriend is some lying corpsefucker who tells you only what you want to hear. ("Honestly, honey, I only like live girls!") Only after you've married the corpsefucker and had a few kids—once extricating yourself from the marriage becomes a hugely complicated ordeal—will he ask you to lie in a tub of ice until you're good and cold.

And when you're lying in that tub of ice—and odds are you will, FOG, because you won't want to put your poor kids through a divorce—you'll remember that sweet, harmless foot fetishist whose heart you broke back in college, the man you could have married.

And your heart will break.

This girl is questioning her boyfriend's sexuality. He cross-dresses, which I understand doesn't mean he's gay. But he frequently talks to gay men on the internet and states that he is gay. He denies being gay and says he just thinks it's interesting to hear people's reactions. He says he never meets anyone, but I found MapQuest directions to a man's house on his computer. When confronted he said that he just wanted to know where this person lived!?

I don't mind the cross-dressing, but I have a problem with him possibly being gay. He has no male friendships and prefers friendships with women. Our relationship is at the point that we are considering marriage. All I feel is fear and doubt.

Female Is Seeking Help

If he's gay, you shouldn't marry him. If he isn't gay, you still shouldn't marry him. Because, FISH, gay or straight, your boyfriend is one big, fat, fucking mess. And, gay or straight, this mess is making you miserable. DTMFA.

Speaking of messy homos, it feels strange to rush to the defense of Mary Cheney, the useless dyke daughter of our malevolent vice president. But I knew I had to speak up after Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America called Cheney's pregnancy "unconscionable." A few thoughts for you, Janice:

First, because Christians like you can't come out and say they oppose Cheney's pregnancy because it says right there in Leviticus that Mary Cheney should be put to death (along with all adulterers, rebellious slaves, and lobstermen), they're condemning Cheney for creating a "fatherless" child, a child that will have no masculine role models. Have you gotten a good look at Heather Poe, Mary Cheney's partner of 15 years? My son has two fathers, but Heather Poe's left labial lip is bigger than both of us put together. Even if Mary and Heather planned on raising their child on a deserted island somewhere, their kid wouldn't want for masculine role models. And if things get too girly at Mary and Heather's place, Grandpa Dick can always take the kid hunting.

Second, fathers are great—my son couldn't agree more, Janice. And guess what? A lesbian couple can't have a child without one. For all we know, Mary and Heather, like so many other lesbian couples, used a known gay male sperm donor—Ken Mehlman? Mark Foley? Ted Haggard?—and this kid is going to have a father in his life.

Third, Concerned Women for America doesn't think Mary Cheney should have a baby. Great, fine, whatever. But Mary Cheney's uterus belongs to Mary Cheney, Janice, and she can do whatever the fuck she likes with it. She can have babies with it or keep her car keys in it or fill it up with potting soil and plant tulips in it. It's her fucking uterus, Janice, not yours. And if you keep inserting yourself into it people are gonna think you're a dyke too, or Heather Poe is going to show up on your doorstep and beat the holy living hell out of you.

Fourth, Concerned Women for America and the Christian Coalition and Mitt Romney and Pat Robertson have all made it clear that they think it's wrong for lesbians to have children. Would someone in the media please ask them the obvious follow-up question: How the fuck do they propose to stop lesbians from having children? Post two members of the National Guard at the entrance to every lesbian vagina in the country? Forced sterilizations at women's music festivals? Mandatory abortions for every lesbian who does manage to get herself pregnant?

Fifth, up in Canada—sane, sane Canada—a bill to reopen, and possibly reverse, the decision to legalize gay marriage failed by a wide margin in Parliament Thursday, December 7.

Tons of extra advice and insight for NUMB, the woman whose boyfriend lost feeling in his face during oral sex, can be read at eugeneweekly.com.

A new Savage Love podcast is available for download every Tuesday at www.thestranger.com/savage. Questions: mail@savagelove.net

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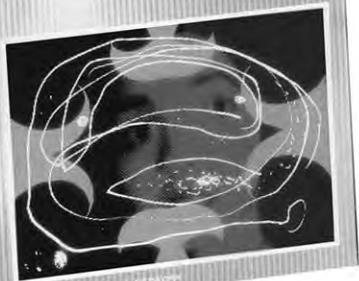


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